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St. Ives
Town Deal



St Ives Town Deal Newsletter December 2024

The last few months have been very busy and very exciting for our Town Deal programme.

Cllr Louis Gardner, Cornwall Council portfolio holder for economy, joined members of Cornwall's Town Deal team to visit some of our Town Deal projects. His whistlestop tour included St Ives Theatre, the Old Vicarage Flats and Leach Pottery. It was great to have the opportunity to show Cllr Gardner the fantastic progress which is being made by all these projects.



Members of St Ives Community Land Trust organised an Open Day in November to show the local community what has been happening with its Old Vicarage Flats project ahead of the building closing for the start of the major refurbishment works. St Ives Town Council's £3.1 million project to restore and improve the historic Guildhall building has taken a major step forward with the news that their contractor, Classic Builders, is now on-site.

Preparations are well underway for the completion of St Ives Theatre's refurbishment, with the company due to celebrate the re-opening of their transformed building at Easter with a performance of the Wizard of Oz. Work is continuing on the next phase of LiveWest's retrofit housing programme and a decision on the hybrid planning application for the St Ives Rugby Club project is expected by the end of December.

Progress is also being made in developing schemes within the Low Carbon Transport Strategy. Work on the first Town Deal funded scheme – redesigning Terrace Junction to improve pedestrian access and space and discourage visitors from driving into the town centre - is due to be completed by the end of December.

Updates on these and all our other projects are available below.

UPGRADING AND PROVIDING NEW COMMUNITY SPACES

St Ives Community Orchard and Penbeagle Wildlife Reserve

2024 has been an exciting year for the Community Orchard. Following the official opening of the Town Deal funded core building in April, the Orchard has been hosting a number of community events and workshops.

These have included Textile Printing, Cornish Palm Weaving, Blackberry Jam Making, Foraging and Singing Workshops, as well as an Open Day, an Anti-Waste pumpkin party and its traditional Apple Day event.

You can find out what is going on their website www.stivesorchard.co.uk/ where you can also subscribe to their newsletter.

Read more about the Community Orchard project on the Town Deal website: www.stivestowndeal.org.uk/st-ives-community-orchard



St Ives Town Council Guildhall Renewal

Work has officially begun on the restoration and enhancement of the historic Guildhall building. Classic Builders are now progressing with the initial phase of the project. This stage involves establishing site boundaries, setting up welfare facilities for the construction team,

and carrying out the demolition of the side infill and portico sections in preparation for new construction in these areas.

The end of November saw the successful relocation of the Barbara Hepworth sculpture, 'Dual Form' to its temporary home at Kresen Kernow. Barbara Hepworth originally gifted the sculpture to St Ives after being granted the Freedom of the Town in 1968. This temporary move ensures the sculpture's protection during the Guildhall Renewal Project, while keeping it on public display for the community and visitors to enjoy. *Dual Form* will return to its position outside St Ives Guildhall once the forecourt works are complete.

Youth Engagement Project officers Laura Peach and Rosana Cox have been very busy since taking on their new roles, jointly funded by St Ives Town Deal Board and St Ives Town Council, at the end of the Summer. As well as linking with all the Town Deal projects to support their engagement with young people and working with existing youth organisations and local schools and colleges, they have set up a "Yonkers" (Cornish word for young people) task force, created a youth café at Edward Hain and launched a Yonkers channel on social media. Other activities include designing and promoting an online Youth Questionnaire, organising a performance and music taster day at the Island Centre with Truro College, creating work experience opportunities for Year 10 students and working with Penzance Job Centre to develop wider opportunities for young people over 18.

Read more about the Guildhall project on the Town Deal website:
www.stivestowndeal.org.uk/st-ives-guildhall



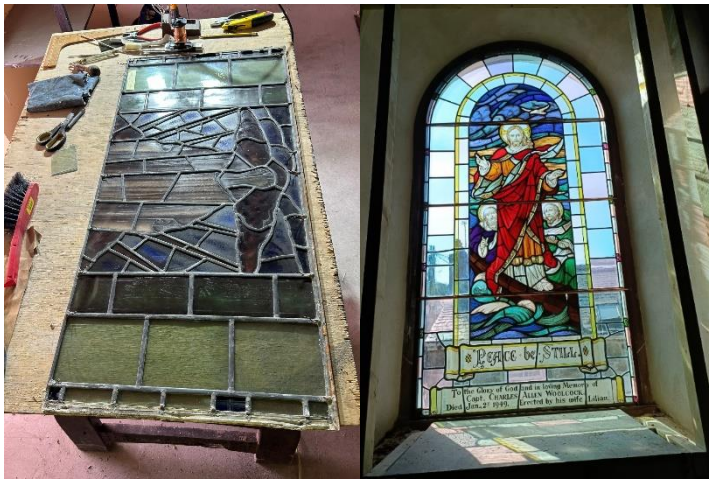
St Ives Theatre Regeneration

The structural elements of this incredible renovation and refurbishment project are largely complete, as are much of the mechanical and electrical improvements. The team are now busy with the internal fitout of the building in preparation for the arrival of the Wizard of Oz at Easter.

Much of this investment will remain invisible to the audience as you would need access to the highest reaches of the building to appreciate the new roofing, air circulation system and structural beams that have been replaced, but all of this ensures the theatre will continue as a centre for performing art training and as a mid-size venue for St Ives and West Cornwall.

What audiences will see is a brand new café which forms part of the extension to the west elevation providing an accessible meeting place during the day and a relaxing environment for audience preshow and during intervals. Audiences familiar with the theatre will also see a new ceiling and wall coverings all of which have improved the thermal efficiency and sound proofing of the building. Behind the scenes (literally) there are improvements to staging areas to ensure easy and safe access to the stage for performers and new office facilities for administrative staff.

Read more about the St Ives Theatre project on the Town Deal website:
www.stivestowndeal.org.uk/st-ives-theatre-regeneration



IMPROVING OUR TRANSPORT SYSTEM FOR A GREENER TOWN CENTRE

Low Carbon Transport Strategy

With improvements to the Terrace junction due to be completed by the end of December, the project team are busy preparing to begin work on the Consols junction at Zennor. Following engagement with local residents, the original design has been amended to include a pedestrian footway, with work scheduled to begin in January. Work is also continuing to develop the schemes at Halsetown, Higher Stennack, Tempest and the Malakoff.

A meeting to explain the draft proposals for the Barnoon and Island car parks to existing permit holders and hear their views was held last month. The objective of the adapted plans is to retain parking for permanent residents at Barnoon, whilst also supporting the wider aims of the transport strategy which would see Island car park changed from pay and display to permit only for residents and businesses.

Significant progress has been made on developing a scheme to improve the management of traffic at Tregenna Hill and Library Corner. There was general support for introducing a one-way traffic system, enabling bus and emergency services (including lifeboat crews) to drive down Tregenna Hill from The Terrace. However, concerns were raised over the use of traffic signals. Following further work on alternative solutions, it is proposed to trial a sign-only

solution using an Experimental Traffic Regulation Order (ETRO) process. The trial will still involve operating a one-way traffic system, but without the need for traffic lights. It will also allow engineers to assess the impact of different traffic flows around the town. This is likely to include comparing the impact of turning around the traffic flow at Park Avenue with the current situation.

The current plan is for the trial to be introduced before Easter 2025?. Further information on its design and implementation will be provided as the details are developed and confirmed.

Read more about the Transport Strategy project on the Town Deal website:
www.stivestowndeaal.org.uk/low-carbon-transport



SUPPORTING NEW SKILLS, JOBS AND BUSINESS

St Ives Enterprise Grant Scheme

Round 3 of the Enterprise Grant Scheme, which provides capital grants to support small and medium sized businesses in the Town Deal area, closed on 15 November.

48 applications were received with requests for over £600,000 making it the most popular round of the scheme to date. The team are now appraising these projects, with decisions on applications and contracts due to be issued during December and January.

Meanwhile, of the 45 projects contracted in rounds one and two of the scheme, 29 are now complete. These range from purchasing new equipment, improving shopfronts and remodelling existing cafes and restaurants, to larger schemes to create new workspaces, expand premises and renovate derelict buildings. A full list of the approved projects is available on the [St Ives Town Deal website](#).

The projects in the first two rounds have delivered and evidenced the following Town Deal outputs:

- 8 full time equivalent jobs created
- 3 full time equivalent jobs safeguarded
- 460-metre square of commercial space renovated or improved

2025 looks set to a busy year in terms of project delivery and claims. The team will be supporting applicants through these processes before the programme closes in December 2025.

Read more about the Enterprise Grants scheme on the Town Deal website:
www.stivestowndeaal.org.uk/delegated-fund-for-renewal

Leach Pottery and Digital Trail

The Leach Pottery's two-year transformation continues with laying foundations and blockwork for the new two-storey Learning and Production Centre, set to open in autumn 2025. The timber frame for the new building will be erected in the New Year.

Since the last newsletter, the project has secured funding from the National Lottery Heritage Fund, alongside the Town Deal investment to support the site-wide redevelopment. The Leach Pottery: the next 100 years is investing in learning and production studio facilities, repair and conservation of the historic buildings, and new displays and exhibition spaces. The funding has allowed the pottery to increase staff, bringing two Make with Leach coordinator roles to the Learning & Participation team to develop community and schools' programmes.

If you have stories to tell or know someone who has connections to the Pottery or loves to collect pots, the project team would love to hear from you! Please contact: carol.burns@leachpottery.com

You can keep up to date with the project on the live updates page on their website: www.leachpottery.com/live-updates

Read more about the Leach Pottery project on the Town Deal website : www.stivestowndeaal.org.uk/leach-pottery-and-st-ives-digital-trail



BUILDING NEW AND TRANSFORMED HOUSING

Old Vicarage Flats Affordable Housing

More than 50 people attended an Open Day to see what has been happening with this community led project which will see the historic building renovated and converted to provide two 1-bedroom and four 2-bedroom high quality affordable flats for rent to local people.

Considerable preparatory work has been taking place ahead of the start of the major refurbishment which is due to begin before Christmas. This has involved replacing the roof, repairing windows and removing asbestos along with some internal demolition work.

The team have also worked with National Grid and BT to sort out the power and energy infrastructure needed to support the conversion of the building into flats, and with members of the Kensa Engineering Ground Source heating design team who will shortly be drilling the bore holes required for the installation of the intended ground source heat pump system.

Details of the contractor who will be carrying out the next phase of the scheme are due to be confirmed within the coming weeks, with the scheme expected to take up to six months to complete.

You can watch a short film about the project [here](https://youtu.be/mwplll-g8js). <https://youtu.be/mwplll-g8js>

Read more about the Old Vicarage Flats project on the Town Deal website;
www.stivestowndeaal.org.uk/old-vicarage-flats



St Ives LiveWest Low Carbon Retrofit

LiveWest has already invested around £1.5m into St Ives through energy improvements to its homes, including unlocking £645,000 of funding through the government's Social Housing Decarbonisation Funding Programme (SHDF).

Having spent months assessing properties, undertaking roof improvements and other preparatory works, LiveWest is excited that the New Year will see the next phase of work funded through the St Ives Town Deal.

LiveWest will be targeting the first cohort of properties to have new solar PV systems fitted, alongside another phase of work undertaken through SHDF that will see the social housing provider invest in a range of energy efficiency property improvements including new insulation, better ventilation, new roofing, solar PV and some heating and hot water improvements.

Read more about the LiveWest project on the Town Deal website:
www.stivestowndeaal.org.uk/st-ives-livewest



Rugby Club and Housing

A decision on the planning application for this exciting and ambitious scheme to provide much needed local housing and extra care facilities in St Ives and deliver new high-quality sports facilities for the local community, is currently expected before Christmas. In the meantime work is continuing on developing the technical designs for the project.

If approved the plans will see the new sports facility remaining on the same site but relocated further north in the position of the existing grandstand. This will then, in turn, free up the space for the new affordable housing and extra care accommodation in respond to identified local need.

Read more about the Rugby Club project on the Town Deal website:
www.stivestowndeal.org.uk/rugby-club-scheme



Next steps

With the re-opening of the transformed St Ives Theatre, a decision on planning permission for the Rugby Club project and work beginning on the next four transport schemes all expected before Easter, there are an exciting few months ahead for our Town Deal programme.

Delivering these ambitious projects will revitalise our town, improving life for residents and creating sustainable communities now and into the future.

About the St Ives Town Deal

In June 2021, St Ives secured a Town Deal of up to £19.9 million from the UK Government and match funding from Cornwall Council. Nine regeneration projects have been approved to receive funding from the Town Deal following the successful submission of the [Town Investment Plan](#).

View our [Frequently Asked Questions page](#) to find out more about the Town Deal Fund in St Ives.

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