



# FALMOUTH TOWN COUNCIL

## Agenda Grounds, Facilities & Environmental Action Committee

**Date** 17/06/2026  
**Time** 18:00 -  
**Location** Atherton Suite  
**Chair** Danny Konik  
**Explanation** Dear Councillor,




I hereby invite you to attend a meeting of the Grounds, Facilities & Environmental Action Committee to be held in the Atherton Suite on Wednesday 17th June 2026 at 6.00pm.

The meeting will observe the requirements of the Council's commitment to the Civility and Respect Pledge. That is to treat councillors, employees, members of the public, representatives of partner organisations and volunteers with civility and respect in their roles. Behaviour breaching that commitment will not be tolerated.

Yours sincerely,

Town Clerk

- 
- 1 APOLOGIES**  
To receive and approve apologies for absence.
  - 2 INTERESTS AND DECLARATIONS**  
To receive declarations of interest in respect of items on the agenda. Councillors are reminded to declare any dispensations granted.
  - 3 MINUTES**  
To agree the minutes of the meeting dated Wednesday 18th March 2026. (1-9).
  - 4 BASKETBALL PROVISION AT DRACAENA FIELDS**  
To receive a presentation and request for basketball provision at Dracaena Fields.
  - 5 FALMOUTH TREE PEOPLE**  
To receive a presentation on Community Orchard proposals. (10-11).

- 6** **GROUNDS MANAGER OVERVIEW AND UPDATE**  
To receive an overview and update from the Grounds Manager. (12-13).  
  
To note updates from the E3O officers. (14)
- 7** **FACILITIES MANAGER OVERVIEW AND UPDATE**  
To receive an overview and update from the Facilities Manager (to follow).
- 8** **STRATEGIC ENVIRONMENTAL OFFICER OVERVIEW AND UPDATE**  
To receive an overview and update from the Strategic Environmental Officer. (15-18).
- 9** **TOWN CLERK'S REPORT**  
To consider the Part I Report of the Town Clerk. (19-21).
- 10** **BIODIVERSITY POLICY**  
Pursuant to the Committee's consideration to receive the updated policy. (22-25).
- 11** **EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC**  
In the public interest to consider the exclusion of the press and public for the following items of business as they may involve the consideration of confidential information in respect of staffing and contractual matters.
- 12**  **MINUTES**  
To note the minutes of the joint meeting of the Cultural Services and Leisure Committee and the Grounds, Facilities, and Environmental Action Committee held on 18th March 2026. (26-27)
- 13**  **FACILITIES MANAGER - PART II REPORT**  
To receive part II report from the Facilities Manager. (28-30).
- 14**  **GROUNDS MANAGER - PART II REPORT**  
To receive part II report from the Grounds manager.

## **FALMOUTH TOWN COUNCIL**

Minutes of a meeting of the Grounds, Facilities and Environmental Action Committee held on 18<sup>th</sup> March 2026 at 7.45pm in the Atherton Suite, The Old Post Office, The Moor, Falmouth.

Present: Councillors D A Konik (Chair), J A Walkden (Vice-chair), G P Andrewartha, D V Evans BEM CC, K Holbrook, L E Howes, A Munden, and J A R Stowell.

In attendance: A M Williams (Responsible Financial Officer)  
A Medlin (Facilities Manager)

The Chair reminded attendees that the Council had committed to the Civility and Respect Pledge, that is to treat everyone participating in the meeting tonight with civility and respect in their roles. For us respect is treating others with dignity, recognizing boundaries, being non-judgmental and accepting of differences. Behaviour breaching that commitment will not be tolerated. In dealing with the business of the meeting we will adhere to our agenda and the processes set out in our Standing Orders. Please be aware that the meeting is a public one and there may be recordings of your participation.

**GFEA220** **APOLOGIES**  
None received

**GFEA221** **INTERESTS AND DISPENSATIONS**  
None received.

**GFEA222** **MINUTES**  
It was proposed by Councillor Howes, seconded by Councillor Evans and

**RESOLVED** that the Part I minutes of the meeting held on 14<sup>th</sup> January 2026 be agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

**GFEA223** **GROUND MANAGER OVERVIEW AND UPDATE**  
The Town Clerk presented an overview of the Grounds Service operation, and the continuing storm remediation works. He updated on Grounds Manager, Grounds Supervisor, and Environmental Education and Enforcement Officer recruitments.

**GFEA224** **FACILITIES MANAGER OVERVIEW AND UPDATE**  
The Facilities Manager presented his report and responded to questions including updates on pest control measures, Health and Safety Audit and actions, seagull netting at Princess Pavilion, and public toilets. The report was duly noted and forms part of these minutes.

**GFEA225** **STRATEGIC ENVIRONMENTAL PROJECTS OFFICER OVERVIEW AND UPDATE**  
The Town Clerk presented the Strategic Environmental Projects Officer's report and responded to questions. The report was duly noted and is attached as part of these minutes.

Councillor Walkden reported upon the Climate Emergency film.

It was proposed by Councillor Walkden, seconded by Councillor Howes and

**RESOLVED** that the Council arrange a showing of the Climate Emergency film for Councillors and Council Staff and other community leaders.

**GFEA226** **FAL AND HELFORD CHARTER OF THE SEA**

Councillor Holbrook presented the Fal and Helford Charter of the Sea.

It was proposed by Councillor Stowell, seconded by Councillor Walkden and

**RESOLVED** that the Council supports the Fal and Helford Charter of the Sea and advocates its inclusion in development polices such as the Falmouth Neighbourhood Plan.

**GFEA227** **EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC**

It was proposed by Councillor Stowel, seconded by Councillor Howes and

**RESOLVED** that in view of the confidential nature of contractual matters, it is advisable in the public interest that the press and public be excluded from the meeting.

**GROUND, FACILITIES AND ENVIRONMENTAL ACTION COMMITTEE**

**PART II MINUTES**  
**18<sup>th</sup> MARCH 2026**

**GFEA228     MINUTES**

It was proposed by Councillor Howes, seconded by Councillor Walkden and

**RESOLVED** that the Part II minutes of the meeting held on 14<sup>th</sup> January 2026 be agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

There being no further business to transact the Chair closed the meeting at 8.25pm.

Signed ..... Dated.....



**Facilities Manager Update:**

**1. General works update:**

Works undertaken within the period included the following:

- Pavilion Theatre roof : replacement of high level steel ridge flashing which detached in recent storms.
- Stable block : Works relating to the replacement of the external masonry netting and guttering repairs were completed on the 24.02.2026. (St Ives Safety Netting) Traffic control was installed throughout the works duration to support a safe system of work incorporating a scissor lift.
- Repairs to water leaks at Prince of Wales Pier and Swanpool public conveniences.(in-house and contracted maintenance teams)
- Library / Gallery entrance foyer : Extensive redecoration of high level areas and G/F reception area. Works required internal scaffolding platform to safely remove, clean and replace artwork.
- Municipal building : removal of redundant timber store and detritus from rear of building. Works included the treatment of significant vermin infestation which will now require a planned schedule of monthly monitoring and bait replenishment. Works were undertaken by a specialist contractor and inspected by CC Environmental Officer.

**2. Health & Safety Audit (27th January 2026 Worknest):**

Recorded observations - 11 points (6x Medium / 5x Low)

- Asbestos Training (med):  
Ensure suitable and sufficient Asbestos Awareness training is provided to all employees who may work in areas containing asbestos. **Maintenance teams have completed Asbestos Awareness Training Level 2 / E Learning module.**
- Electrical Safety (med):  
Ensure all chargers and associated equipment are installed, used, and maintained in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions. Instruct a competent electrician to carryout annual servicing and maintenance in accordance with Electricity at Work Regulations 1989 (EAWR) and retain the certification on file. **Certified inspection process completed at Cemetery vehicle charging point.**
- First Aid at Work (med):  
Carry out a first aid needs assessment to determine what level of first aid provision is required for your workplace. The assessment must consider the work undertaken, employee numbers, distribution and working patterns, any pre-existing medical conditions and the ability of emergency services to reach the premises. **Assessment process in progress for all FTC operations. The**

**document will incorporate existing training and accreditation within staff teams.**

- Environmental (med):  
Ensure a risk assessment is in place for the EPO's including risk of assault. **Risk Assessment completed and will support CSAS accreditation.**
- Legionella Management (med);  
Work with your legionella risk assessment company to create individual written schemes of examination for legionella and temperature checks at each building. Once completed the actions required can be allocated in house or to contractors as required. **Works in progress with legionella specialist (REEF)**
- Fire Safety Overview (med):  
It is understood that solar panels have been installed at the Pavilions. The fire risk assessment should be updated to reflect this and a suitable maintenance scheme put in place to minimise the fire risk posed by them. **Fire Risk Assessment has been reviewed with an annual inspection regime agreed with installer (NakedSolar) This will be replicated on our additional installation at the Cemetery.**
- Asbestos Management (low):  
Ensure the asbestos management plan is regularly reviewed and updated. It is important to review and update your plan: - whenever work takes place that affects ACMs - where staff with management responsibilities have changed - where ACMs have been inadvertently disturbed - following scheduled condition checks of ACMs. **The Asbestos Management Plan has been updated to record all existing management arrangements.**
- Stress Management (low):  
Consider implementing a staff survey for wellbeing and stress. Advice on carrying this out is available from HSE website or WorkNest can offer a climate/safety survey service if required. Please contact your H&S consultant if you wish to have a quotation for this service. **(see below)**
- Stress management (low)  
Managers should be provided with training in relation to the management of stress. **Managers provided with Well at work (stress / anxiety and mental health support) training; Absence management training (including relevant policy awareness & application, and managing stress related absences); deployment of Wellbeing Workplace Assessments (including stress risk assessment).**
- Management of Health & Safety (low):  
Ensure risk assessments are in place for specific activities in the facilities management. Point of use assessments are recorded in some circumstances, but a general maintenance assessment should be completed and recorded. **A database of key risk assessments have been issued to Facilities operatives which support existing responsive risk assessment documentation.**

- Management of Health & Safety (low):  
Ensure staff are given access to risk assessments and that they are notified of any changes. This process will need to be recorded. **All risk assessments are located in vehicles and are reviewed annually or at such times when activities change.**



**March 2026 – Strategic Environmental Projects  
Report for Grounds, Facilities & Environmental Action Committee**

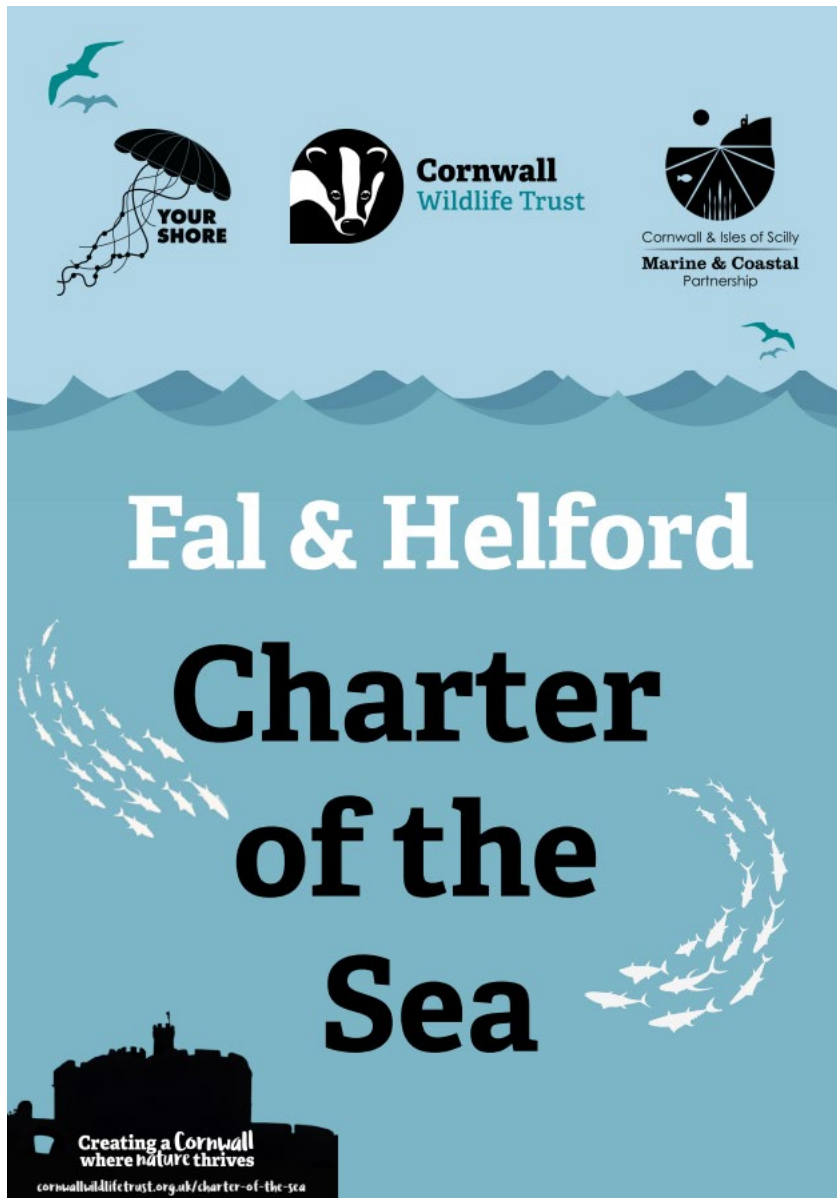
Focus	Action taken	Next steps
<b>Carbon Reduction</b>	<p><b>Princess Pavilion</b> – LED outdoor lighting completed</p> <p><b>Passmore Edwards Municipal Building</b> – Total cost c. £3million. Funding options being investigated.</p> <p><b>Mortuary Building</b> – budget approved for solar installation. Procurement process underway for Mortuary building solar installation in 2026/7</p> <p><b>HVO</b> tank operational. All diesel vehicles and equipment will use HVO instead of diesel reducing emissions by up to 90%.</p>	<p>Regular meetings to monitor further energy saving measures at PP.</p> <p>Continue replacing florescent lights with LED throughout library as funds allow.</p>
<b>Biodiversity</b>	<p>Invasive species (INNS) removal programme in the SSSI section of the Green Corridor being undertaken by Cornwall Wildlife Trust</p> <p>UoE intern commissioned to create maps on <i>Parish On-line</i> of all FTC park &amp; open spaces.</p> <p>Fallen tree stumps piled to create wildlife habitat within the cemetery.</p>	<p>Councillors to develop and take to Committee</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Declaration of an ecological emergency</li> <li>• Biodiversity policy</li> </ul> <p>Once adopted, work with Grounds Manager to develop BAP</p>
<b>Events</b>	<p>Planning underway for the second Festival for the Ocean in June (close to World Ocean Day)</p> <p>Coastal Resilience 14 March (Cllr Clegg lead)</p>	<p>Town-wide spring clean 25 March</p> <p>Water-saving event @ PP 12 April</p> <p>Festival for the Ocean 7 June @ Gylly</p>
<b>Water</b>	<p>SWW monthly update meetings set up with SEPO. Website with details of works <a href="http://southwestwater.co.uk">Falmouth Sewer Improvement Scheme (southwestwater.co.uk)</a>.</p> <p>Draft plans shared with SEPO</p> <p>Rainwater harvesting system reinstatement completed at PP in January.</p>	<p>Communication to encourage residents to be aware of resilience methodologies.</p> <p>SWW to present suite of plans to full Council on 9 March.</p>
<b>Community Engagement</b>	<p>SEPO attends Fal Energy Partnership monthly meetings, Fal/Helford SAC meetings quarterly.</p> <p>FTC attend Falmouth Green Corridor meetings quarterly.</p> <p>Attended UoE Health &amp; Wellbeing event on 4 Feb</p>	

Focus	Action taken	Next steps
<b>Ocean Recovery</b>	Liaison with Falmouth Marine Conservation to assess FTC involvement with various projects including snorkel safaris and Pacific oyster management. Working with BID to install further 'We are the Ocean' banners around town.	Blue Meadows seagrass restoration in Falmouth Bay planned may commence in spring 2026. FTC to support. Committee to adopt the Fal & Helford Charter. Work with new CC Fal & Helford Officer to promote best practice on the ocean.
<b>Transport</b>	Promote cycle events organised by Councillor Evans via socials. Staff Cycle to Work Scheme 2026 running until 30 March 2026	
<b>Communication</b>	Litterpick organised by others, promoted via FTC channels No Dogs/Fires on beaches signs ordered New directional signs on Green Corridor ordered.	Promotion of events Signs to be installed once water table settles.
<b>Other</b>	SME energy saving app promoted amongst BID businesses. Provided by <a href="#">Fairer Warmth for SMEs</a> Climate Risk added to corporate Risk Assessment	Support S106 project at Swanvale open space and verges around Swanpool.
<b>Budget</b>	£7,000 allocated in 2025/26 budget; £400 - Festival for the Ocean £200 - Green Week £200 – Sustainable drinks @ Christmas celebration £1,000 – Community Resilience event £670 – new emergency lighting at PP £750 – Snorkel safaris from Falmouth Marine Conservation £300 – plants for Spring Clean Running total - £3,520	

Decisions requested from **Grounds, Facilities & Environmental Action Committee;**

To endorse the Fal & Helford Charter of the Sea

Prepared by Karen Hall, Strategic Environmental Projects Officer  
March 2026



### **Vision**

To protect and celebrate the rich marine heritage of the Fal & Helford estuaries by fostering stewardship, enhancing water quality, reducing pollution and restoring our coastal and marine environments. Ensuring a thriving sea for generations to come.

### **Priorities**

Education & Engagement

Water quality

Plastic Pollution & Marine Litter

Wrecks & Abandoned Boats

[Fal & Helford Charter of the Sea Document](https://www.cornwallwildlifetrust.org.uk/charter-of-the-sea)

Dear Councillors.

Just when you thought you weren't going to hear any more from Cherry, Debs and I, here we are again! Hopefully on this occasion though the news we bring is of a more positive and upbeat nature.

Because the next opportunity to present to you at a council meeting is some time away, we wanted to share with you an initiative we've been working on over recent weeks alongside some of your councillor colleagues. We're hoping it's a project you'll recognise as being of significant benefit to the community and will, therefore, feel able to support.

### **Position Statement**

Falmouth Tree People is a community-led initiative to create a network of pocket orchards across town-controlled land, enhancing biodiversity, wellbeing, and community engagement through a low-cost, volunteer-supported model.

### **Background**

December 2025 and January 2026 were not good months for trees in Falmouth. It felt like no sooner had we watched CC unlawfully fell the three Trelawney Trees, than we were rubbing our eyes in disbelief at the damage caused by the winter storms.

Despite the outcome of the Stop the Chop! campaign, there were some huge positives that emerged. Throughout the campaign we were continually blown away by the immense support we received from many quarters - not least the town council and the local community. For some reason the campaign seemed to unleash a real sense of shared purpose across the town and a desire for action which was both notable and humbling to be a part of.

Although we couldn't in the end prevent CC's actions, Debs, Cherry and I spent the early part of this year thinking about a way to harness and grow the amazing sense of community that surrounded the Stop the Chop! campaign, whilst trying to compensate for some of the damage caused by CC and the storms. Thanks to various coincidences and serendipitous encounters, the planting of pocket orchards across Falmouth was the opportunity we identified.

### **The Initiative**

In recent weeks, Cherry, Debs and I have been working with FTC's tree/plant experts - Debra Clegg, Danny Konik and Alan Rowe - to scope out how the initiative could work. In the process we have founded Falmouth Tree People - a tree planting initiative, largely peopled by volunteers, aimed at growing community as well as fruit!

We are currently in the process of identifying the most suitable site in Falmouth to host the inaugural pocket orchard. We are planning on using only those sites under FTC's jurisdiction. Some sites are already under FTC control; some should become available in the future as a result of devolution.

We envisage a pocket orchard being a collection of around a dozen fruit trees, depending on the size and position of the site. Cornish heritage varieties of fruit tree will be used where possible. We'd also like to see a more unusual tree planted for interest and

education purposes. Over time the idea is to have a tree trail that links the orchards and other notable individual trees across the town, which would encourage exploration of the wider Falmouth tree-scape by residents and visitors alike.

## **Community Benefits**

Pocket orchards offer a range of benefits. They are attractive, relatively low-maintenance, and contribute positively to biodiversity and mental wellbeing. They also provide free, locally grown fruit!

Equally important are the social benefits. Planting days would be designed as inclusive community events, bringing together volunteers, local residents, and nearby schools. Ongoing, each orchard could serve as a space for informal gathering, small events, or quiet enjoyment.

We also intend to provide opportunities for volunteers to learn practical skills such as pruning, with the potential over time to develop local expertise in grafting and tree propagation. This could enable the future provision of low-cost trees to residents for their own gardens.

## **Funding**

We have identified a number of potential funding streams eg sponsorship, FTC's small grants fund, the Lottery Community Fund, and possibly even the odd contribution from both county and town councillors!

Importantly, a start up fund to cover the cost of the trees for the first pocket orchard has been offered by Stop the Chop! (aka Cherry, Debs and Amanda). It seems to us there is a pleasing circularity to the loss of the Trelawney Trees being the catalyst for the planting of the first fruit trees.

## **Next Steps**

We do hope the above explains the Falmouth Tree People initiative in sufficient detail to give you a good idea of what we're about, without overloading you with too much information. Needless to say, if you would like further information, or would like us to come and talk to you face to face, we'd be very happy to do that.

In the meantime, we hope you like the sound of what we're doing and that you are happy to support our endeavour.

Thank you for your time and very best wishes

Amanda

On behalf of Falmouth Tree People

# Grounds Report 17th June 2026

Dracaena.

Work will commence on resurfacing the goal mouths and other problem areas as well as growing the lined areas out and re-marking to re-straighten the pitch lines.

Two interested parties Kernow Pixies and another football club are interested in using the pitches. (The FA do allow three teams to play on 2 football pitches)

As well as possibly advertising, to highlight to the public about costs unavailability on hiring the pitch.

Fix and Flourish have clear the old play area and is looking to make it into a basketball court once funding has been secured. The Council should consider supporting that use there.

Trescobeas.

Japanese knotweed has been treated and will continue to be treated until eradicated this will be a spring and autumn treatment over 4 years, a development company will remove the knotweed on the farmers field side and put in a root barrier.

Kimberly park

Seasonal bedding is planted, Tom Cathey is covering in the garden and will continue to remove invasive plants and weeds in preparation for replanting in the autumn to re invigorate the beds and borders, signs have been made-up and will be placed on the entrance warning members of the public about possible empty beds and the reason for this.

Additional signage is provided warning FTC vehicles only allowed in the park with further general signage for the park.

Meeting with southwest water has been put back.

Cemeteries

Work has started to fix areas damaged by the storms, a tree specialist was brought in and felled three large dangerous trees, an external contractor will remove the wood from the cemetery. A contractor is fixing the top road that was damaged by a fallen tree,

a track chipper will be hired to remove the numerous piles of branches stored around the cemetery.

As part of the compliance regime, equipment has been sourced to start the banding and securing of gravestones, once wobble tested the owners of the gravestones will be contacted and after six months if it has not rectified FTC will make it safe.

#### Roundabout sponsorship

Hillhead roundabout sponsorship has ended so we can look to advertise a Falmouth town council asset. (in any interim pending new sponsorship)

#### General.

Work is continuing in the depots to reach health and safety compliance.

Public Rights of Way work on going

Beacon Point a new bin will be fitted in the car park, a Nexus with a 360ltr as the new one is too small.

Biodiversity policy has been amended it needs to be agreed.

Council vehicles now run on HVO diesel more environmentally friendly.

Chapel once finally connected will be running on solar panels.

Street spraying will now be done by CORMAC for Cornwall council, Town Clark will sit on a committee with Cornwall council with future decisions and the Implementing of these future services.

The Town Clerk has been invited to sit on Cornwall Council Working Group to review future public realm weed treatment.

#### Environmental, Education, and Enforcement Officers

Tess and Andy had Sand Sfe on Gylly beach to raise awareness about plastic free bonfires on the beach in general safety.

Public Space Protection Order (PSPO): open fires on the beach. Cornwall Council are currently consulting.

Both operatives will be trained in water testing and will do so once a month to test for pollution.

## May 2026 Environmental Education and Enforcement Officers for Falmouth Town Council



Areas of focus this month above normal patrols and duties

- Tregonigie Woodland Fair Sat 9<sup>th</sup>; here we held a butterfly making workshop (out of toilet rolls), talking all things nature and looking after our woodlands/parks/waterway here in Falmouth. We were so busy all day!!
- Tessa sat on the panel of the FBRA AGM Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> answering the residents questions and concerns about the area. We enjoyed the day and took away lots of information and jobs to do!
- Sand Safe Event – Bringing all our partners together to network before the summer rush and to engage with the beach users. We also had made Seagull scarers, played beach games, hula hooped, learned all about the sea grass meadows here off Gylly Beach, chatted all things community groups, chatted to people across Europe with the Coast Radio team and held a litter picking station. All topped off by an fly past of a Culdrose helicopter, where the crew waved at us all. A beautiful day weather wise too. Big thank you to the Mayor who attended on the day .
- Prilow Woods Board walk deep clean – clean of the whole area beyond the board walk area.
- Dealt with 5 abandoned tents and the rubbish associated with this, including one major encampment with large volumes of rubbish.
- Water testing training including river fly identification. We will start testing once a month on Bickland stream. We will be involving the local schools.
- Van Dwellers – working with residents and van dwellers re. on street parking in Falmouth. Working on building understanding on both sides. Building resources on the law around such issues.
- We attending the Deactivation training course.
- We installed the new Beach Signs on Gylly with regard to NO DOGS ON THE BEACH signs.

Tessa and Andy



**March 2026 – Strategic Environmental Projects  
Report for Grounds, Facilities & Environmental Action Committee**

<b>Focus</b>	<b>Action taken</b>	<b>Next steps</b>
<b>Carbon Reduction</b>	<b>Mortuary Building</b> – Solar Installation complete	Regular meetings to monitor further energy saving measures at PP. Continue replacing florescent lights with LED throughout library as funds allow.
<b>Biodiversity</b>	Invasive species (INNS) removal programme in the SSSI section of the Green Corridor being undertaken by Cornwall Wildlife Trust UoE intern created maps of all FTC park & open spaces on <i>Parish On-line</i> .	Councillors to propose a Biodiversity policy for adoption Once adopted, work with Grounds Manager to develop BAP
<b>Events</b>	Coastal Resilience 14 March (Cllr Clegg lead) took place with c. 60 attendees. Spring clean across town undertaken at several locations. April SWW water-saving event cancelled. FEP hosted a community energy event at Dracaena. Festival for the Ocean 7 June @ Gylly	Cllr Walken & Evans to run two further Climate Emergency events at Dracaena & Social Club.
<b>Sewerage</b>	SWW monthly update meetings set up with SEPO. Website with details of works <a href="https://southwestwater.co.uk">Falmouth Sewer Improvement Scheme (southwestwater.co.uk)</a> .	Meetings to be arranged with SWW to discuss specific townscape interventions with all relevant stakeholders
<b>Community Engagement</b>	SEPO attends Fal Energy Partnership monthly meetings, Fal/Helford SAC meetings quarterly. FTC attend Falmouth Green Corridor meetings quarterly. Worked with Town Team on Beach Day during Falmouth Week SandSafe event held on Gylly on May 27 <sup>th</sup> to engage beach goers in environmentally appropriate behaviour.	

Focus	Action taken	Next steps
<b>Ocean Recovery</b>	<p>Liaison with Falmouth Marine Conservation to assess FTC involvement with various projects including snorkel safaris.            'We are the Ocean' banners relocated in town.            Fal &amp; Helford Charter adopted by committee in March.            Cornwall Council issued a Marine Nature Recovery Framework.  <a href="#">Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly Marine Nature Recovery Framework   Let's Talk Cornwall</a>            Blue Meadows seagrass restoration in Falmouth Bay planned to commence in spring 2026</p>	<p>FTC to support Blue Meadows project.            Work with CC Fal &amp; Helford Officer to promote best practice on the ocean.</p>
<b>Transport</b>	<p>Promote cycle events organised by Councillor Evans via socials.            Staff Cycle to Work Scheme 2026 ran until 30 March 2026.</p>	
<b>Communication</b>	<p>Relevant events organised by others promoted via FTC channels            No Dogs/Fires on beaches signs delivered and on site            New directional signs on Green Corridor delivered.</p>	<p>Promotion of events            Signs to be installed once water table settles.</p>
<b>Other</b>	<p>Soft plastics recycling now included in council waste stream.            Screening of 'National Emergency Briefing' held on 28 April.            Supported the creation of a Beach Toy Library at Castle Beach with Plastic Free Falmouth.            Signposts installed along Green Corridor.            Coordinate a group of known Climate related Officers in Cornwall town and parish councils. Quarterly meeting.</p>	
<b>Budget</b>	<p>£9,000 allocated. Expenditure;            Toy Library £200            Festival 4 the Ocean £500            Film screening £140</p>	

Decisions requested from **Grounds, Facilities & Environmental Action Committee;**

Prepared by Karen Hall, Strategic Environmental Projects Officer

June 2026



Festival for the Ocean

# Festival for the Ocean

FREE FAMILY EVENT

Sunday 7 June  
Gyllyngvase Beach  
Falmouth  
11am - 2pm



## EXPLORE

Discover Falmouth's ocean life and marine science



## CREATE

Get hands-on with arts, crafts and creative activities



## PROTECT

Learn how we can all care for our ocean together

## TIMED ACTIVITIES



11.00am  
Snorkel safari



12.00pm  
Basket Shark & Cuttlefish parade



12.30pm  
Marine stranding demo



1.00pm  
BRUV's camera demo



1.30pm  
Beach clean

## DROP-IN ACTIVITIES



Oyster Display



Cyanotype art



Recycled Plastic Weaving



Children's storytelling



Cake sale for charity



... And lots more

#LeaveOnlyFootprints



FALMOUTH TOWN COUNCIL



Supported by Cornwall Council's Fal and Helford Marine Recreational Mitigation Project

In its second year, Falmouth Town Council organised another spectacular celebration of the sea and its inhabitants which took place on Sunday 7 June. The festival was supported by Cornwall Council's Fal and Helford Marine Recreational Mitigation Project.

Thousands of festival goers flocked to Gyllngvase Beach to encounter an oversized cuttlefish and a life-size basking shark parading along the shoreline. Falmouth University's Duncan Cameron was the curator and creator of the giant sculptures depicting wildlife that can be found in Falmouth's Bay using art as a form to highlight the plight of the ocean.

Alongside the spectacle, Cornwall's foremost organisations who look after our valuable natural assets were on hand to educate, inform and inspire children and adults alike about the habitats and creatures that call our waters their home.

There were activities galore to satisfy the fun-loving and curious for the three hour extravaganza. From Snorkel safaris to seagull scarer making, litterpicking to live demonstrations or magnetic fishing to giant jaws, it was all there.

A huge thank you goes to all those who took part and made the Festival for the Ocean so successful. Especially to our activity providers

Falmouth Marine Conservation  
Cornwall Wildlife Trust  
Ocean Buffer  
University of Exeter  
Falmouth University  
Plastic Free Falmouth  
Marine Biology Life  
BDMLR (British Divers Marine Life Rescue)  
Falmouth Library  
Falmouth Art Gallery  
Greenpeace  
NCI  
CRAC



**FALMOUTH TOWN COUNCIL**  
**Grounds, Facilities and Environmental Action Committee**  
**17<sup>th</sup> June 2026**  
**Town Clerk's Report – Part I**

**Financial Considerations:**

This Committee will need to consider its approach and engagement with public realm weed treatment in 2027/28 in due course.

**Environmental Considerations:**

This Committee will need to consider its approach and engagement with public realm weed treatment in 2027/28 in due course.

**1. Public Realm Weed Treatment**

Further to the Grounds Manager Report on public realm weed treatment I have been asked to be part of a Cornwall Council Group considering the approach to public realm weed treatment in 2027 and beyond.

Cornwall Council have apologised to Town and Parish Councils for the nature of the consultation and the arbitrary actions undertaken in 2026.

**Mark Williams FCG FSLCC**  
**Town Clerk**  
**June 2026**



To: All City, Town and Parish Councils in Cornwall

30 April 2026

Dear colleagues

Like you, we believe tidy neighbourhoods encourage pride in where we live and help protect vital assets such as pavements, roads and footpaths. That is why improving our public realm is a priority and we have ensured funding is allocated over the next three years to make a visible difference.

However, our approach to weed treatment, and the way it has been communicated, has raised strong concerns among your membership and within the wider community. Cabinet and senior council officers are sorry for the lack of engagement in advance with Town and Parish Councils and we appreciate your feedback.

We are committed to making visible improvements to Cornwall's streets and keeping footpaths and kerbsides safe, accessible and well maintained. But we have listened, and we recognise that this must be done in a way that earns the confidence of Members, Town and Parish Councils and the wider public.

While the proposed use of chemical treatments would have been very limited and tightly controlled, we recognise that further discussion is needed with you to fully explore the approach and its potential future use.

For the remainder of this year, with your help, we want to progress a programme of environmental improvements across the public realm through a series of interventions including enhancing the greenspace estate and targeted "hotspot" interventions, without the use of chemicals. This will include reviewing our mowing cycles, enhancing sites for nature on roads and footpaths as well as manual activities such as widening overgrown paths, cutting back edges, and removing weeds from kerb lines.

We will work closely with you to ensure these interventions are targeted effectively. We will engage with the Cornwall Association of Local Councils to seek advice on how best to involve Town and Parish Councils in finalising our approach, ensuring the additional funding delivers maximum benefit for local communities.

This decision relates to Cornwall Council's own planned weed treatment programme for this year, it does not prevent Town and Parish Councils from continuing with their own existing contracts for weed treatment arrangements. Our overall aim is to allow local democratic choice. We thank all of those who responded to our letter of 30 March 2026, however for those who have not responded there is no requirement to respond or return opt out forms.

In the long term, with your involvement, we will develop a wider approach for maintaining pride in our public realm, using the opportunity to explore greater involvement from communities themselves, perhaps through “love where you live” groups and working alongside existing community groups. The Council’s goal remains the same: to care for our public spaces and restore pride in our neighbourhoods, and we want to work with you and our residents to achieve that, for the benefit of one and all.

Yours sincerely



**CLlr Leigh Frost**  
Leader of Cornwall Council



**Phil Mason**  
Strategic Director Sustainable Growth & Place



**CLlr Adam Paynter**  
Deputy Leader of Cornwall Council



**CLlr Dan Rogerson**  
Cabinet Member for Transport



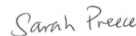
**CLlr Thalia Marrington**  
Cabinet Member for Community Safety & Public Health



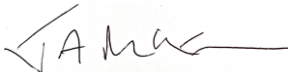
**CLlr Tim Dwelly**  
Cabinet Member for Economic Regeneration & Investment



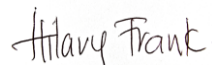
**CLlr Loic Rich**  
Cabinet Member for Environment & Climate Change



**CLlr Sarah Preece**  
Cabinet Member for Tourism, Localism & Planning



**CLlr Jim McKenna**  
Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care & Health Partnership



**CLlr Hilary Frank**  
Cabinet Member for Children, Families & Schools



**CLlr Peter La Broy**  
Cabinet Member for Housing





## **FTC Biodiversity Policy**

### **The importance of biodiversity?**

According to Defra (Introduction to the England Biodiversity Indicators, February 2025 - GOV.UK<sup>1</sup>), “Biodiversity is the variety of all life on Earth. It includes all species of animals and plants, and the natural systems that support them. Biodiversity matters because it supports the vital benefits we get from the natural environment. It is fundamental to our economy, our health and wellbeing, and it enriches our lives.”

Biodiversity is difficult to measure as it is so complex, but the abundance (number of individuals) of land and freshwater based animals has decreased by 19% since 1970 (State of Nature report, 2023<sup>2</sup>). Some groups of species which rely on vulnerable habitats have been especially impacted, such as farmland birds which have declined by 58%. 2% of all species have become extinct in the UK since 1970, and a further 16% are assessed as being threatened with extinction. Many of the species most impacted include pollinators, which are vital to our ecosystems. Plant life has also declined markedly since 1970, with 54% of flowering plants having decreased in abundance.

Aside from its intrinsic value, we all rely on biodiversity to provide us with food, fresh air and clean water. Healthy and biodiverse environments regulate our climate, protect us from natural disasters and pollinate our crops. Improving biodiversity will also improve the quantity and quality of our green spaces, with the associated benefits of improved mental health and community cohesion. (Biodiversity is key to the mental health benefits of nature, new study finds | King's College London<sup>3</sup>)

### **Statutory Duty**

Under the 2021 Environment Act, public authorities operating in England must consider what they can do to conserve and enhance biodiversity.

Government guidance published on 17 May 2023 clarifies that, as a public authority, town and parish councils must:

- Consider what they can do to conserve and enhance biodiversity.
- Agree policies and specific objectives based on their consideration.
- Act to deliver their policies and achieve their objectives.

Town and parish councils, unlike other authorities, are not obliged to publish a report on their action but are required to agree a policy and objectives as soon as possible and must then reconsider the selected actions within five years.

## **Legal Background**

In accordance with the duty imposed on town and parish councils by Section 40 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006, updated by Section 102 of the Environment Act 2021, Falmouth Town Council (hereinafter referred to as the Council) which has any functions exercisable in relation to England must from time to time consider what action the authority can properly take, consistently with the proper exercise of its functions, to further the general biodiversity objective. **This duty means that town and parish councils can spend funds in conserving biodiversity.**

## **Aims and objectives**

To provide guidance for decision making on matters that relate to biodiversity in order to ensure the preservation and enhancement of biodiversity in Falmouth and the surrounding area. The Town Council has the potential to significantly impact biodiversity directly, by managing the land it owns or manages to create and restore habitats that encourage nature recovery, and more generally through public engagement, leadership and responsible procurement.

## **Land management**

The Council is a major landowner in the town, with more land to be devolved from Cornwall Council to Falmouth in coming years as part of a broader devolution strategy. Much of this land is public access greenspace comprising parcels from small verges to parks and cemeteries.

As a custodian of these public greenspaces, FTC will ensure its management of these spaces follows best practice to preserve and improve their biodiversity.

The council will

- Audit as much of its land as possible, through a combination of professional surveys, citizen science projects and compilation of existing resources.
- Prioritise the conservation and promotion of local biodiversity with regard to the management of its open spaces. This includes adopting best practice for cutting and removal of vegetation, mowing, application of chemicals and timing of maintenance work.
- Phase out the use of chemical controls in public spaces, except for the control of invasive species.
- Establish a planting palette and schedule planting with biodiversity in mind, particularly prioritising pollinators and local endemic species.
- Identify appropriate areas for wildlife-friendly habitat creation and protection.
- Source plants and material from local nurseries and suppliers that use sustainable practices where possible.
- Implement specific policies for controlling non-native invasive species.

- Identify biodiversity issues when implementing changes that arise from the management of its buildings.

## **Planning**

The council has an advisory role and can comment on any planning application in Falmouth. The final decision is made by the Cornwall Council Planning Officer taking this into consideration. In practice, the planning committee of the council only specifically comments on applications that are potentially controversial, or have significant public impact. Other applications are approved by default. The council is bound to recommend approval or rejection based on 'material considerations', which specifically relate to planning legislation. Comments are also guided by the Neighbourhood Development Plan, which will be updated.

When commenting on planning applications, the council will:

- If the application is of a size to require biodiversity net gain commitments<sup>4</sup>, use their local knowledge to check these are feasible, realistic and in line with the Cornwall Nature Recovery Plan.
- For Biodiversity-Net-Gain exempt applications, support site and building design that benefits biodiversity through the conservation and integration of existing habitats, and creation of new habitats.
- In all applications, support the protection of existing sensitive habitats in preference to achieving net gain by creating new habitat.
- Signpost applicants to action points in Cornwall Council Nature Recovery Plan and other resources as appropriate.

## **Public engagement**

The council is a respected institution, with a body of elected members and carries out lots of functions across many parts of the community, from business development to youth engagement. The council is therefore well placed to show leadership on biodiversity, demonstrating best practice and signposting other organisations to resources.

The Council will:

- raise public awareness of biodiversity issues, including through its website.
- Consider and represent biodiversity when engaging with local businesses and the wider community.
- Where feasible, involve the community in biodiversity projects
- Celebrate wildlife annually through a public event.

## **General commitments**

The Council will work in partnership with other organisations to protect, promote and enhance biodiversity within the parish.

It will review any local nature recovery strategies, species conservation strategies, or protected site strategies in respect of the Swanpool Nature Reserve (an SSSI) and consider how it may become more involved in implementing the strategies' recommendations.

The council will keep up to date with the wider Nature Recovery Strategy<sup>4</sup> adopted by Cornwall Council and where appropriate work with them to deliver improvements for biodiversity within the town.

Where possible, Town Council staff will be able to access training opportunities and learning resources will be signposted to become qualified in biodiversity literacy<sup>5</sup> and biodiversity net gain.

## **Implementation**

Falmouth Town Council will produce a Biodiversity Action Plan, including a monitoring scheme. Dates to be agreed.

This policy was adopted on xx (Minute reference yy) and will be reviewed in five years or sooner should legislation dictate.

A summary of how the policy has been implemented will be published annually, with reference to the original biodiversity audit to track progress

## **Sources:**

- 1 [Introduction to the England Biodiversity Indicators - GOV.UK](#)
- 2 [State of Nature report](#)
- 3 [Biodiversity is key to the mental health benefits of nature, new study finds | King's College London](#)
- 4 [Cornwall and Isles of Scilly Nature Recovery Strategy | Let's Talk Cornwall](#)
- 5 [Introduction to UK biodiversity indicators](#)