

## LOSTWITHIEL TOWN COUNCIL ANNUAL REPORT 2012

The year 2011-12 has been very busy for the Council. This is partly due to major Government changes in legislation on Localism and Planning and Cornwall Council devolving responsibilities to Town & Parish Councils.

The Council created a new committee to prepare for the Queen's Diamond Jubilee and the summer Olympic celebrations. This is on top of last year's new committee for Flood Defence. However the Council is currently considering reducing the number of committees so that they can be more encompassing and comprehensive.

Through the Autumn and into January all Council committees met frequently sorting out budgets for this forthcoming year and for the next two ensuing years so that this Council can try and pre-empt additional expenditure. All Councillors put in many hours of hard work and soul searching to formulate the precept.

The setting of the precept this year has been a particularly difficult task, due largely to circumstances outside of the control of the Town Council. Cornwall Council has advised that a number of services are to be withdrawn. We are told that in 2013 Cornwall Council will withdraw funding for the only public toilets in the town. They tell us that the cost of running them is in excess of £14,000 per annum. If these toilets are to remain open beyond 2013, then Lostwithiel Town Council will have to accept those additional demands on its resources.

Also, this year the snow/ice provision made by Cornwall Council has been drastically reduced. Some grit bins have been removed and the remaining ones have been filled, but will not be replenished by Cornwall Council. This means that if we wish the public to have the same protection as before, Lostwithiel Town Council will have to purchase and arrange for the distribution of any additional road grit needed. In addition Cornwall Council will only grit fewer roads than before. In order to keep the busier roads into and around the town open and safe we are looking into a partnership with our neighbouring Councils at St Veep and St Winnow to bulk buy and spread grit so maintaining our current standards.

New Planning regulations proposed by Central Government means that Lostwithiel Town Council should produce a Neighbourhood Development Plan. This is a document which once produced has to be 'independently assessed' prior to adoption. Once adopted it becomes part of the planning policy for the area. As always when independently assessed appears, it means incurring professional fees. It is impossible to determine at present what these fees might be, but we have been warned that a Neighbourhood Development Plan will cost between £16,000 and £75,000 depending on complexity. This year we have put £10,000 towards this so as to spread the eventual load.

Lostwithiel Town Council is fortunate to own its own parks but maintenance costs continue to rise. The Council has also set aside £5,000 towards the cost of the new skate ramp. The play areas need frequent and expensive maintenance and inevitably the time comes where replacement becomes essential. This year it is proposed to provide various new pieces of play equipment for the use of the younger generation at a cost of £35,000.

This expenditure will mean that a Band D house in Lostwithiel will incur a precept of £93.89 per annum, an increase on the previous year of £39.53. This equates to an additional 76p per week for a Band D house.

Please find below the Town Council's Income and Expenditure report for 2011-12 together with figures for 2010-11 for comparison purposes.

INCOME	2010/11	2011/12
Precept	55109.00	56579.00
Double Charge Grant	5021.00	0.00
Agency - Grass cutting	3820.21	0.00
Agency - Weed Killing	1727.34	0.00
Book Sales	40.00	0.00
Miscellaneous Income	4627.07	1162.12
Interest received	41.92	24.69
Capital expenditure		1514.00
Cemetery Income	1395.00	710.00
Maintenance	845.00	
Recreation Ground Income	765.00	730.00
Allotments Income	1578.00	1783.00
Edgcumbe house Income	8515.21	8529.16
Guildhall Income	20.00	20.00
Taprell House Rents	1608.00	1609.00
Methodist Church income	100.00	100.00
Rates	372.46	210.37
VAT	5623.41	1635.41
	91208.62	74606.75
<b>EXPENDITURE</b>		
General Administration, Audit & Accounting Fees	1961.79	3085.99
Salaries & Wages	18141.09	22322.45
Staff & Member training	85.00	129.10
Subscriptions	889.05	927.09
Insurance	6785.66	7187.69
Bank Charges	202.71	196.21
Mayors Allowance		619.81
Election expenses	0.00	0.00
Local grants	465.00	100.00
Miscellaneous Costs	767.62	1086.24
Grass Cutting Agency	4596.00	3712.00
Weed killing Agency	888.00	1730.00
General	920.83	
Section 137 payments	200.00	400.00
Capital Expenditure	115.88	3436.66
Cemetery	1369.40	999.53
Recreation Ground	682.00	2204.81
Parks	443.29	5043.52
Amenities	9311.20	9607.17
Allotments	418.20	50.00
Car parks	1858.50	3394.07

Trees	425.00	3565.00
Edgcumbe House	8519.21	3402.82
Guildhall	4808.53	1225.00
Taprell House	4133.07	0.00
Footpaths	1040.74	0.00
Playgrounds	3966.75	537.50
Parish Plan Research	318.57	0.00
VAT	4086.99	4366.84
	77400.08	79329.50
Surplus/deficit for the year	13808.54	-4722.75