



LOSTWITHIEL



**Strategic Plan
2026-2029**



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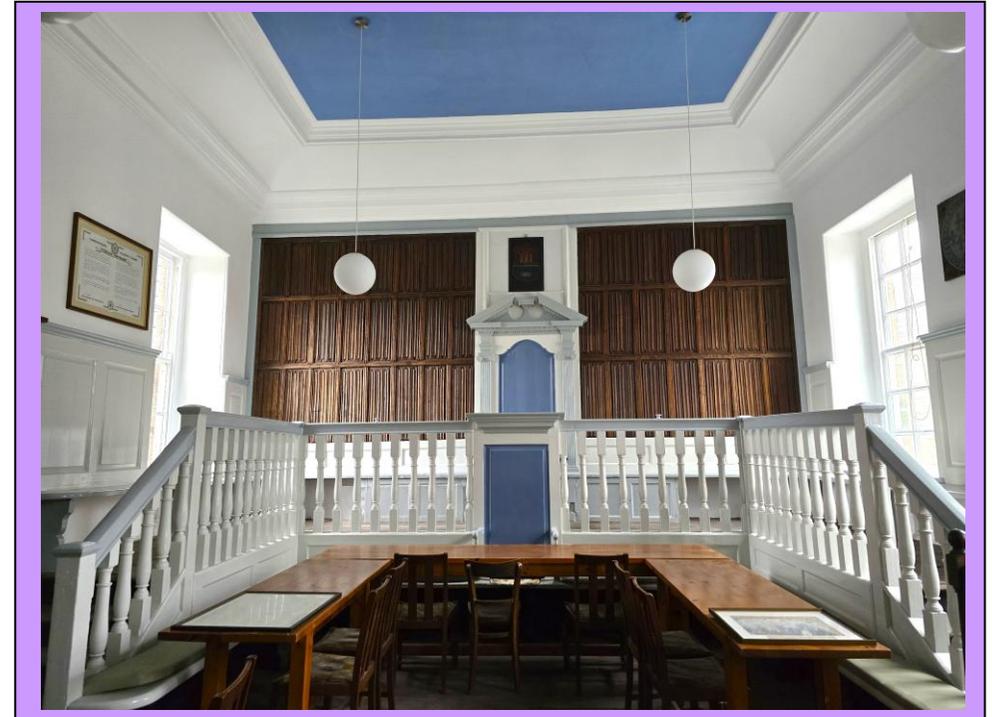
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1. INTRODUCTION

Following the May 2025 Local Elections and the September 2025 Lostwithiel By-Election, the Town Council has seen significant change with many Councillors taking office for the first time.

All Councillors are committed to serving the residents across the Parish.

This Strategic Plan sets out six strategic aims; these aims outline key areas of focus and will provide the Council with a framework for decision making and resource allocation.



2. Map



3. Our Vision

**This is Lostwithiel Town Council's
Plan for 2026-2029**

To maintain and enhance
Lostwithiel for the well-being and
prosperity of present and future
generations.

To ensure Lostwithiel benefits
from being a town that people
want to visit for its character,
heritage, and independent
businesses.

Strive to ensure Lostwithiel
residents are proud of the
Parish in which they live

4. Mission Statement

Lostwithiel Town Council aims to be
forward thinking and outward
looking, working to maintain and
improve the town.

The Council will endeavour to
protect the built and natural
environments, green and blue
(river) spaces.

The Council will also engage and
work with residents and partner
organisations.

5. Lostwithiel Today

Lostwithiel has always been a historically significant small town in the heart of Cornwall, with a population of 3,066. Nestled in the scenic valley of the River Fowey, its name, *Lostwydhyel*, translates to 'tail of the forest'. The parish is defined by its central built-up area, which retains a well-preserved medieval street plan, surrounded by predominantly agricultural land and beautiful rolling countryside. The A390 trunk road and a mainline railway station provide vital connections to the rest of Cornwall and beyond.

Residents cherish Lostwithiel's strong "**community spirit**" and a connection to the town's significant history, which is embodied in its many listed buildings, ancient alleys, and 13th century Castle. Access to nature is highly prized, with residents valuing the "**rural/walks/open spaces**" and the beautiful landscape of the surrounding area. The town centre offers a vibrant mix of independent shops, pubs, and cafes that meet most daily needs. Community surveys show that **74% of respondents to a recent Neighbourhood Priority Statement survey (2025) use the town's shops daily or weekly.**

Despite its many strengths, the community faces several challenges. **Lack of adequate car parking, traffic management and speed** are top priorities for residents. Public transport is considered "**very limited**", isolating those without access to a car.

The rising number of second homes (9-14% of stock) and holiday lets, lack of social housing, starter homes, affordable homes and homes for downsizing are all areas for concern.

Furthermore, there are concerns about the capacity of local infrastructure. This includes **sewerage systems**, where pollution impacts the River Fowey, and **digital connectivity**, with some areas of the parish suffering from some of the slowest fibre broadband speeds in the UK at just 2Mbps.

6. About Us



Lostwithiel Town Council (LTC) is made up of 16 elected Councillors and is the first tier of local Government. Currently the Council qualifies for the 'General Power of Competence (GPC)', which gives the Town Council more 'power to act.' The Council works within the framework detailed in the Council's Standing Orders and Financial Regulations and hopes to establish this Committee Structure within the next 12 months.

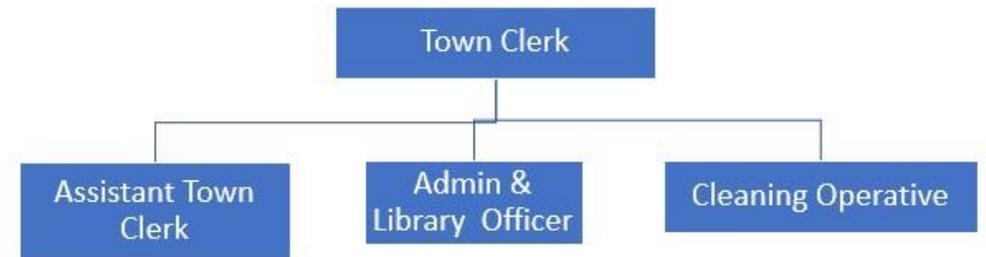


The Town Council's responsibilities include: -

- 3 Listed buildings - Edcumbe House, Taprell House and The Guildhall
- Castle Hill Cemetery
- Lostwithiel Library
- King George V play area
- Coulson Park
- Second Island Park
- Pendour Park Play area
- The Parade
- The War Memorials
- Cattle Market and Quay Street car parks
- Allotments
- Public Toilet
- Noticeboards and Map boards
- Town Clock

The Town Council is also a consultee on planning and licensing within the Parish.

The Town Council's Operational Team is as illustrated in the diagram below



Cornwall Council is the next Government tier and their services include:



- Economic Development
- Environmental services
- Strategic policies for Cornwall
- Fire and rescue
- Highways
- Education
- Social Care
- Housing
- Planning
- Refuse collection
- Recycling
- Trading Standards

7. Strategic Aims

Promote Community Engagement and Democracy

The Council is a representative body of residents elected to represent the community.

The Council will:-

- a) Operate within the Council's Standing Orders and Financial Regulations
- b) Consult with residents to help guide the Council on large projects and initiatives
- c) Work collaboratively with grassroots organisations
- d) Ensure the Council's website and social media channels are accessible and current, to better inform
- e) Take steps to ensure it remains qualified to hold the General Power of Competence

Promote active Travel and Public Transport

The Council will make sustainable travel options safer, easier, and more appealing than driving:-

- a) Working with bus and train companies to improve connectivity
- b) Promoting the Town and Countryside Walking Trails
- c) Encouraging cycling and provide secure bike parking
- d) Promoting Lostwithiel Station's town centre location as the sustainable way to visit Lostwithiel
- e) Raising awareness of Cornwall Council's Public Rights of Way network

Promote Lostwithiel's Economy

The Council has an important place-shaping role and it will:-

- a) Create wherever possible additional parking space in Lostwithiel
- b) Helps to maintain Lostwithiel as a destination that people want to visit for its character, heritage, and independent businesses
- c) Ensure that as a Consultee on planning and licensing it assesses all applications and submit comments to Cornwall Council
- d) Support initiatives to build a Lostwithiel brand
- e) Work with organisations to improve connectivity to increase visitor numbers

Protect Lostwithiel's Heritage

The Council will advocate protection of our unique town by:-

- a) Protecting Lostwithiel's Conservation Area by supporting the protection and retention of the Town's built heritage
- b) Working with partners on events and initiatives which celebrate and promote the Town's heritage
- c) Ensuring that the Local Planning Authority (Cornwall Council) adheres to the guidance in the AECOM Design Codes document, the Neighbourhood Development Plan and Neighbourhood Priorities Statement
- d) Helping to maintain the Town's cultural identity and Civic Pride
- e) Continuing to support Lostwithiel Museum

Protect Lostwithiel's Environment and improve biodiversity

The Council as custodian of a number of green spaces will: -

- a) Work with partners to deliver environmental improvements to reduce carbon footprint
- b) Actively encourage SW Water to reduce the number of sewage discharges from their Shirehall Moor site
- c) Improve Lostwithiel's diverse network of green spaces
- d) Work towards a more biodiverse natural environment
- e) Ensure protection of the Town Council's trees in line with the Tree Management Policy

Protect the Community through access to services and facilities

The Council will facilitate: -

- a) Working with partners to promote healthy lifestyles
- b) To maximize the usage and community benefit of the Council's Listed Buildings
- c) To provide high quality recreational areas for residents
- d) Boosting the local economy
- e) Empowering residents to increase accountability and involvement in decision making processes
- f) Promote the Library
- g) Promote the Flood Plan
- h) Promote the Council's Allotments

8. Action Plan

STRENGTHS

- 16 Councillor seats – all full
- Established service provider
- General Power of Competence
- CILCA qualified Clerk
- Good number of Council owned assets
- Financially robust
- Strong community
- Existing partnerships
- Local knowledge

WEAKNESSES

- Parking
- Lack of infrastructure growth in town
- Outdated office IT systems
- Public perception
- Financial constraints
- Community unaware of the Council's role
- Heavy reliance on Council Tax

SWOT

ANALYSIS

OPPORTUNITIES

- Improve communication
- External funding
- Devolution
- Stakeholder collaboration
- Neighbourhood Priority Statement
- Strengthen public perception and participation

THREATS

- Flooding
- Impact of climate change on the trees and drought
- Anti-social behaviour
- Economic factors i.e. reduction in funding
- External policy changes
- Budget pressures
- Increasing demand on Councillor time

9. SMART Objectives

This is a live working document and the action plan for 2026 is: -

Specific	Measurable	Attainable	Realistic	Timeframe
Promote Community Engagement and Democracy				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Councillor/Staff training programme 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Planning Training Councillor skills training 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Planning training (in house) Councillor skills (CALC) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promote training courses 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> December 2026
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Neighbourhood Priority Statement 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Further community consultation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Further NPS consultation events after CC feedback 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Set specific diary date 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> December 2026
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Update and improve Council website and social media 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Revised website and improved social media posts 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> External guidance and training 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ongoing research 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> December 2026
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Upgrade Council computer systems 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Seek external advice and recommendations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> External guidance 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ongoing research 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> December 2026
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Obtain Local Council Award Scheme - silver 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Check current delivery to award criteria 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure any present shortfalls are resolved 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Set specific diary date 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> December 2026
Specific	Measurable	Attainable	Realistic	Timeframe
Promote Lostwithiel's Economy				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Progress devolution of Cattle Market car park 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Undertake due diligence and continue conversations with CC 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maintain momentum 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Set final target date 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> December 2026
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increase wherever possible parking within the town 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Instigate further discussion with CC regarding progressing the PJA recommendations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contact Local Highways Manager to request a face-to-face meeting 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Date of initial meeting to be set up as soon as possible 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> December 2026

Specific	Measurable	Attainable	Realistic	Timeframe
Promote Lostwithiel's Economy				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work with organisations to build a town brand 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Arrange an initial discussion with representatives of Lostwithiel Business Group 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> If LBG are receptive to drive this forward as a joint initiative 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Set timeline for wider meeting as May 2026 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> December 2026
Specific	Measurable	Attainable	Realistic	Timeframe
Promote Active Travel and Public Transport				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Explore all options of cycle paths/routes and cycle parking 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Set up a sustainable transport consultation event and engage local organisations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Take the lead or support as opportunities present themselves 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Timetable in a consultation event 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> September 2026
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure new website provides links to Town trails, PROW network 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Add the flexibility to add links as a specific website requirement 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Add to website design brief 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> September 2026 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Website deadline December 2026
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Make enquiries with rail company regarding a promotional leaflet for Lostwithiel Station 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contact rail company 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Liaise with rail company 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support from other organisations to give gravity to application 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> December 2026
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Initiate plans which improve Lostwithiel's connectivity 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Think local bus and coach operators, walking and cycling 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Engage with transport organisations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support from other organisations to give gravity to application 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> March 2027

Specific	Measurable	Attainable	Realistic	Timeframe
Protect Lostwithiel's Heritage				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure that the Local Planning Authority adheres to guidance in the AECOM Design Codes, the NDP and NPS 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ongoing by ensuring the Town Council continues to respond to every planning application 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ongoing by ensuring the Town Council continues to respond to every planning application 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continuation of existing procedures 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continuous
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue to pursue funding to enhance the three Listed Buildings owned by Lostwithiel Town Council 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regular meetings of the Listed Buildings Committee 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Grant applications 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Grant funding applications will be made more attractive to potential funders by including match funding 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> December 2026
Specific	Measurable	Attainable	Realistic	Timeframe
Protect Lostwithiel's Environment and Improve Biodiversity				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Actively engage with South West Water to ascertain current, medium- and long-term plans to reduce use of sewage outfall 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contact SW Water quoting the data available 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Request a face-to-face meeting if correspondence does not prompt response 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 01 April 2026 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Progress by June 2026
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Encourage tree surgeon to enhance biodiversity at Shirehall Moor 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Already included in tender 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Already included in tree surgeon tender 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 31 January 2026 tender end date 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 31 January 2026 tender end date
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consider the introduction of bug hotels 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Request mandate to purchase from Council 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Request mandate to purchase from Council 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Aligns with Town Council objectives 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> April 2026
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Introduce wildlife corridors/areas in Town Council owned green spaces 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Discuss with existing contractor best locations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work towards developing the areas from summer 2026 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop over 2026 growing season 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> November 2026
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tree Survey 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Instruct Tree Surveyor to inspect Council trees 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prepare a tree surgery tender document to ensure recommendations are implemented 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure the Tender specifies that works are to be completed before the end of the bird nesting season 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> February 2026

Specific	Measurable	Attainable	Realistic	Timeframe
Protect The Community Through Access To Services and Facilities				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue with objective to update play equipment 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maintain liaison with local schools regarding their proposed piece of equipment 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contact both Primary Schools and set up a consultation event to display their feedback and invite further feedback from other residents 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> December 2026 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> December 2026
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promote walking trails and strive to improve connectivity 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure trails are promoted on website and social media channels 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure this is included as an essential requirement of any new website design 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> December 2026 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> December 2026
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promote Library 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recruit robust rota of volunteers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Plan peer to peer training & Cornwall Council intranet training resources 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> June 2026 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> June 2026
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promote Flood Plan 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Inform the Town's residents Recruit Flood Wardens 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Plan training with the assistance of Cornwall Community Flood Forum 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> March 2026 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> June 2026

10. Glossary

Conservation Area - A Conservation Area is an area of special architectural or historic interest. They are designated by the local planning authority (Cornwall Council).

Standing Orders & Financial Regulations –
The rules that govern the procedures and financial management of the Council

Council Tax/Precept - This is the local tax levied by the Town Council which is collected by Cornwall Council as part of the Council Tax bill.

Local Planning Authority – Cornwall Council is the LPA for Cornwall.
Lostwithiel Town Council is a consultee on Planning for applications within the Lostwithiel Parish.

**If you have any questions or would like to
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