

PRESS RELEASE



22/09/2026

Saltash Town Council Awards Community Chest Funding to Local Organisations

Saltash Town Council is pleased to announce the allocation of Community Chest grants to support local charities and organisations.

The Town Council has a budget for the award of grants for activities or events that benefit the town. The Community Chest supports small-scale projects that improve the town environment and strengthen the community and local economy, while the Festival Fund supports larger, free events that attract large numbers of people.

The Town Council has awarded £250 to Gleaning Cornwall, a charity which focuses on reducing food waste by collecting surplus or out-graded/wonky produce from farms across Cornwall and distributing it to individuals and families experiencing food insecurity. Gleaning Cornwall supplies this fresh, nutritious food on a weekly basis to the Saltash Community Fridge and Larder, the Community Kitchen, and Saltash Foodbank, providing ongoing support to local residents. The grant will help to purchase a laptop to support the charity's administrative activities carried out by volunteers, many of whom are Saltash residents.



Additionally, £1,000 was awarded to Saltash Music, Speech and Drama Festival. The organisation aims to advance the education of the public in the arts through its annual festival and public performances. In 2027, the 35th annual Saltash Music, Speech and Drama Festival will take place at Wesley Methodist Church. Managed by a team of volunteers, the festival will see performances from local organisations, choirs, soloists, bands, schools and college - all of which can be enjoyed by residents and visitors of Saltash.



Above photos credited to Mike Pitches Media

Saltash Town Council has previously awarded funding to the festival in 2024 and 2025, and is pleased to be able to support again this year. A free syllabus for the 2027 event is available from Piglets and Saltash Wesley Church office.

Finally, Saltash United Football Club received £989.89 to support with portable training equipment for both adult and youth teams. The club has shared that this would enable them to use the equipment on their main pitch as well as their secondary location. The new equipment would also allow for younger players to play at Kimberley Stadium (also known as Waterways Stadium), an aspiration for all youth players.

Saltash Town Council remains committed to supporting local groups and initiatives that support health and wellbeing, promote recreation and leisure and, overall, enhance community life.

If you would like to apply for Community Chest or Festival Fund funding, or to find out more, please [visit the Town Council's website](#).

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Our local coordinator has been struggling with an old iPad for years, and we are so grateful that she can now really show off her spreadsheet skills and better handle the local social media requirements. We have grown and have to manage around 8 tonnes of produce a month, delivering for free to 160 organisations. We have nearly saved £1 million worth of vegetables since setting up 5 years ago and are extremely grateful to the Town Council for their kind support.

According to Cornwall Council, last year the average income in Cornwall was £425 per week, while the national weekly average was £767! We have poor, expensive to run housing, 40% of which are off mains gas, higher than average costs and often seasonal wages.

The fresh, nutritious produce we glean mainly helps working families who are struggling with the cost-of-living, then the next demographic are the elderly and then the long term sick. We are currently feeding 11,000 people in need each week.

If you are in a position to kindly help, [our Crowdfunder](#) will match donations.

— Holly Whitelaw, Gleaning Cornwall Founder & Manager

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The 2026 Festival attracted nearly 500 entries, both young people & adults, and we are hoping to improve on that number in 2027. The Town Council Grant is imperative to our existence as most of our expenditure covers payment to three professional Adjudicators, their accommodation, hire of Wesley Church for up to 7 days and printing of the syllabus and programme. Without the Town Council Grant, we would really struggle financially to put on a Festival the following year.

— Phil Taylor, Saltash Music, Speech and Drama Festival

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Saltash Town Council is proud to support local organisations that make such a positive difference to the lives of our residents. Through the Community Chest grant scheme, we are able to invest in projects that strengthen our community, support health and wellbeing, celebrate arts and culture, and provide opportunities for people of all ages. Gleaning Cornwall, Saltash Music, Speech and Drama Festival, and Saltash United Football Club each play an important role in enriching community life, and we are delighted to support their valuable work.

— Mayor Cllr Brian Stoyel

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ENDS



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Notes To Editor

Saltash Town Council forms the first tier of local government and works with Cornwall Council who are our Unitary Authority. We are the largest Town Council in the south-east area of Cornwall.

The Town Council is committed to providing excellence in the Services and Facilities which it delivers. We aim to be responsive, accessible, and transparent in our approach and in the work delivered.

There are sixteen Councillors representing three Wards – Essa, Tamar and Trematon. Councillors are elected from the community every four years. Spaces are filled via by-elections, or by means of the Town Council choosing new Councillors via co-option.

The Chairman and Deputy Chairman are elected by Members of the Town Council annually at the Annual Town Council meeting held in May. The Chairman also undertakes the role of Mayor representing the Town Council and community at official engagements, with their consort.