

Helston Community Council Report, 2030
(THIS IS A FICTIONAL DOCUMENT USED AS PART OF A
“WHAT IF” WORKSHOP TO INSPIRE ACTION!)

Dear colleagues,

It's my pleasure to be with you here today to report on our work and successes over the last year.

Since the climate emergency was declared by the UK Parliament, Cornwall Council and Helston Town Council in 2019, we have done much. There was much to do. The UN IPCC report of 2018, the UN reports on biodiversity loss and ecological catastrophe all provided ear-splitting alarm bells. We could be in no doubt that people, place and planet and everything that lives on it, and that we hold dear, was facing existential crisis. Since then we have worked hard across all our social, environmental and economic systems to make sure we place wellbeing at the centre of all our work, and making sure that everything we do stays well within planetary boundaries. No-one gets left behind; and our job is to keep the planet well.

Our headline achievements give you a taste of what we have created, and how far we have come:

1: Health: a combination of our parish wide cycle and walking lanes; our network of edible food trails; our extensive allotment and community gardens; our common spaces where people can walk, and meet, and build healthy relationships; our programme to ensure everyone lives in a well built and insulated home, fed by renewables and affordable for all members of our community as a result of our Community Home Care and Repair Programme – has meant the overall health of our population has increased. Community activity has taken the place of 20% of doctors surgery appointments, and depression, stress and anxiety are on the way down in our schools and institutions. Loneliness is decreasing, and the new four day week or “One in Five” Programme has ensured that work is more productive for those working. It has led to a treasure chest of community activity on growing, home repair, community green space maintenance, support for those living alone, developing a new orchard and extending the Edible Food Trails, Community Gardens, allotment network and Walking and Cycling Lanes. And our social prescription worker, connecting people in the surgery to local community groups to deal with loneliness and anxiety, has now dropped down to 4/5, because people are so well connected they tend to not get to the point of needing her support! The 5th day she spends working in Helston Community Orchard.

2: Our repair café is flourishing, with local people able to help repair everything from leather belts, electrical items and garden tools; and they're working to develop a new Helston Skills programme to help people find support to learn what they feel they need, from roof repair, hedge-laying, cycle repair or painting, all centred right here at the Cattle Market.

3: The Local Helston Electric Wheels Share (bus, car and bikes included) is proving incredibly successful and now has 258 members sharing lifts and vehicles across the parish, fed by our local community energy project.

4: Biodiversity: has increased from a flatline and decrease in 2019 to a huge 60% increase in pollinators across the town and our multiple green spaces.

5: Schools: our schools are 100% fed by the local organic food grown in the network of Helston Community Farms, and now at least 20% of local people are eating some organic food every week, a figure increasing every year.

6: Tree growth: we have planted an amazing 5,000 trees across the parish, including nut and fruit trees and the horticultural skills programme that we resulted in has ensure 250 people gained a horticultural qualification over the last 18 months.

Thank you – we look forward to working with you all over the next 12 months!