

TAVISTOCK TOWN COUNCIL

“Working for the Local Community”

Our Vision Statement:

Tavistock Town Council aims to improve the social and economic wellbeing of the community, and to protect the built environment of the town. It aims to work with other organisations and the community to provide efficient and high quality services

GENERAL INFORMATION

1.1 Tavistock is a historic market and stannary town, frequently referred to as the “Western Gateway to Dartmoor”. Its history dates from around 800 AD when an Iron Age Fort was recorded as “Tavy-stoc”. In the 10th Century a Benedictine Abbey was founded there, and on its dissolution by Henry VIII the lands went to the Russell family, who as the Dukes of Bedford have maintained a close interest in the town ever since. It is the only Town in Devon which is designated World Heritage Site Status by UNESCO.

1.2 Two other Councils also operate in Tavistock and their duties include:

Devon County Council

Education	Highways and Highway Lighting
Social Services	Heritage Services
Transportation	Waste Disposal (<i>Crowndale Tip</i>)
Strategic Planning	Libraries (<i>through an intermediary</i>)
Road Safety	Fire and Rescue (<i>through the Devon and Somerset Fire Authority</i>)
Trading Standards	Police (<i>through the Devon and Cornwall Police Authority</i>)
Registration/Coroners’ Services	

West Devon Borough Council

Social Housing	Elections
Environmental Health	Council Tax collection
Local Planning and Development	Housing Benefits (<i>via a contract</i>)
Tourism	Refuse Collection (<i>via a contract</i>)
Leisure Services – (Meadowlands Pool)	Building Regulations
Economic Development	Street Cleaning
Most Car Parks	Public Toilets

So what does the Town Council do?

The Council runs the Pannier Market, the Town Hall, most of the open spaces, the Guildhall Square car park, the allotments and cemeteries. The Town Council is the 'Market Authority' for the Town and also 'Lord of the Manor' for part of Whitchurch Down. It has in its care a large proportion of the old listed buildings in Tavistock. It provides "street furniture" and play parks as well as managing the iconic 'Meadows' park and play areas. It also makes a significant contribution to the wellbeing of

community organisations through grants and donations . One of its most important functions is to provide a democratic voice to represent the community. This commonly involves making representations to the County and Borough Councils concerning matters relating to Tavistock such as highways, transport, planning and development control. The Town Council appoints representatives to meetings of the following organisations:

- Crowndale Recreational Association
- Dartmoor Commoners' Owners' Association
- Dartmoor National Park Authority (DNPA)
- Devon Association of Parish Councils' County Committee
- Devon Association of Parish Councils' Larger Councils' Sub-Committee
- Ford Street and Maynard Almshouse Charity
- Kingdon House Community Association
- Oke Rail Forum
- Tavi Rail Forum
- Tamar Valley Tourism Association
- Tavistock Community Football Association
- Tavistock & District Chamber of Commerce
- Tavistock BID Company (Business Improvement District)
- Tavistock Farmers' Market Association
- Tavistock Matters (Police Liaison group)
- Tavistock Museum (Observer only)
- West Devon Borough Council Southern Parishes Link Committee (when held)
- West Devon Borough Council/Tavistock Consultative Liaison Committee (when held)

TAVISTOCK TOWN COUNCIL

WHO ARE WE?

2.1 The Council Members were mainly elected in May 2023. With co-option being required for vacancies in South East and North Wards. Where any vacancies arise during the new Council term, then that vacancy will be advertised in the local press, on social media, on the website and on the Council notice boards. Any ten electors may request an election to fill such a vacancy, and if they do so then a by-election is held in the normal way. If no such request is made then the Council may fill the vacancy by co-option, and in recent times the method used has been a press notice inviting people interested in becoming a Councillor to submit *curriculum vitae* from which Councillors make a judgement and selection.

Elected Council Members may receive a modest allowance and have to act within the ethical framework laid down by Law. Co-opted Members are not able to receive this allowance.

2.2 The Town Council has 17 elected Member positions, representing the three wards of North (7), South East (5) and South West (5). The next Election will take place in May 2027.

The Members, following the election on 4th May 2023, are as follows. Co-options will be undertaken for any vacant positions following the election in May 2023, unless by-elections are called:

Mr Steve Hipsey (N)	Ind.	21 Redmoor Close Tavistock Devon PL19 0ER	07557 050754 steve.hipsey@tavistock.gov.uk
Vacancy (N)			
Mrs Bev Moody (N)	Ind.	11 Bannawell Street Tavistock Devon PL19 0DJ	01822 615522 bev.moody@tavistock.gov.uk
Mr Jeff Moody (N) Also WDBC	Ind.	11 Bannawell Street Tavistock Devon PL19 0DJ	01822 615522 jeff.moody@tavistock.gov.uk
Mr Trev Munro (N)	-	90 Redmoor Close Tavistock Devon PL19 0ER	07530 939752 trev.munro@tavistock.gov.uk

Mr Robert Poppe (N) Co-opted March 2024	Ind.	c/o Tavistock Town Council Drake Road Tavistock Devon PL19 0AU	07424 136610 robert.poppe@tavistock.gov.uk
Mrs Judy Hughes (N) Co-opted July 2024	-	6 Whitham Park Tavistock Devon PL19 9BP	07480 948319 judy.hughes@tavistock.gov.uk
Mr Andy Hutton (SE)	Ind.	West Down Down Park Drive Tavistock Devon PL19 9AH	01822 619608 07561 305751 andrew.hutton@tavistock.gov.uk
Mr Neil Martin (SE)	Green Party	83 Westmoor Park Tavistock Devon PL19 9AB	01822 617274 neil.martin@tavistock.gov.uk
Mr Graham Parker (SE) Co-opted March 2024	Ind.	232 Whitchurch Road Tavistock Devon PL19 9DQ	07545 075942 graham.parker@tavistock.gov.uk
Mr Barry Smith (SE)	Ind.	22 Westmoor Park Tavistock Devon PL19 9AA	01822 611076 barry.smith@tavistock.gov.uk
Mr Paul Ward (SE)	Ind.	205 Whitchurch Road Tavistock Devon PL19 9DQ	01822 610608 paul.ward@tavistock.gov.uk
Ms Mandy V L Ewings (SW) Also WDBC	Ind.	6 Boughthayes Tavistock Devon PL19 8EE	07557 796588 mandy.ewings@tavistock.gov.uk
Mr Richard Edlmann (SW) Co-opted October 2024	Conservative & Unionist Party	11 Woodpecker Way Tavistock Devon PL19 9FQ	TBA richard.edlmann@tavistock.gov.uk

Mrs Anne Johnson (SW) Also WDBC	Ind.	18 Orchard Close Abbotsfield Tavistock Devon PL19 8HA	01822 613807 anne.johnson@tavistock.gov.uk
Mr Allen Lewis (SW)	-	19 Parkwood Road Tavistock Devon PL19 0HH	07749 798808 allen.lewis@tavistock.gov.uk
Mr Alick Venning (SW)	Ind.	23 Westbridge Cottages Tavistock Devon PL19 8DQ	01822 615726 alick.venning@tavistock.gov.uk

In addition, there is one County and seven West Devon Borough Councillors who represent Tavistock Wards, these may also be Town Councillors. They are from the election on 4th May 2023, and by-elections in June 2023 and May 2025:

West Devon Borough Council

Councillor Jeff Moody (N)	Ind.	11 Bannawell Street Tavistock Devon PL19 8JN	01822 615522 cllr.jeffrey.moody@westdevon.gov.uk
Councillor Holly Greenberry-Pullen	Lib. Dem	c/o WDBC Kilworthy Park Tavistock Devon PL19 0BZ	Cllr.Holly.Greenberry-Pullen@westdevon.gov.uk
Councillor Graham Reed (N)	Ind.	Hunter's Oak Trendle Lane Bere Alston Yelverton PL20 7HT	cllr.graham.reed@westdevon.gov.uk
Councillor Mrs Debo Sellis (SE) Also a County Councillor	Cons.	46 St David's Road Tavistock Devon PL19 9BT	01822 612153 cllr.debo.sellis@westdevon.gov.uk

Councillor Adam Bridgewater (SE)	Ind.	6 Tiddy Brook Road Tavistock PL19 9RZ	07786 244133 cllr.adam.bridgewater@westdevon.gov.uk
Councillor Ms Mandy Ewings (SW)	Ind.	6 Boughthayes Tavistock Devon PL19 8EE	07557 796588 cllr.mandy.ewings@westdevon.gov.uk
Councillor Mrs Anne Johnson (SW)	Ind.	18 Orchard Close Abbotsfield Tavistock Devon PL19 8HA	01822 613807 cllr.anne.johnson@westdevon.gov.uk

Devon County Council – Tavistock Division

County Councillor Mrs Debo Sellis Also a Borough Councillor	Cons.	46 St David's Road Tavistock Devon PL19 9BT	debo.sellis@devon.gov.uk
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2.2.1 The Full Council normally meets on a Tuesday approximately every 6 weeks at 6.30pm in the Council Chamber, Drake Road. There are also two Standing Committees, which are the Budget & Policy Committee and the Development Management & Licensing Committee (formerly the Plans Committee) which has delegated authority to respond to the Planning Authority on Planning and Licensing Applications (at 6.30pm). The Budget & Policy Committee meets on a similar pattern to the Council, the Development Management & Licensing Committee meets three-weekly.

Consultative Groups meet during the year, as required, to consider matters of detail concerning areas of Council work such as the Town Hall & Markets, and Whitchurch Down.

2.2.2 All Council and Standing Committee Meetings are open to the public and press, and dates and timings are advertised on the Council notice boards and on its website. During the full Council Meetings members of the public have the opportunity to ask questions of the Council in accordance with an agreed procedure.

2.2.3 Minutes of the Meetings are made available in the Town Library, in the Council Offices, and are posted on the Council's website.

2.3 To carry out the policy set by the Members, the Council employs twenty seven. They are headed by the Town Clerk, Carl Hearn (info@tavistock.gov.uk), and there are five principal Officers to assist him. They are:

- Mrs Jan Smallacombe, Assistant to the Town Clerk, based in the General Office in Drake Road (01822 613529). E-mail (info@tavistock.gov.uk) for all general and financial matters, and contact with the Councillors
- Mr Wayne Southall, General Manager and Deputy Town Clerk, based at the Guildhall (01822 616134). E-mail (worksdepot@tavistock.gov.uk) for all matters associated with the out-services of the Council.
- Ms Becky Rowe, Works Manager, also with responsibility for the Meadows, play parks, Goose Fair and Council owned property and lands, the Cemetery and is contactable via the Works Depot at the Guildhall (01822 616134 or e-mail (worksdepot@tavistock.gov.uk)).
- Mr Duane Carruthers, Market Reeve, based in the Pannier Market (01822 611003 or e-mail panniermarket@tavistock.gov.uk) who heads the Pannier Market, and controls bookings for Bedford Square.
- Mr Martin Furse, Town Hall & Events Manager, based in the Town Hall (01822 617232 or e-mail townhall@tavistock.gov.uk) for Town Hall and Butchers' Hall bookings butchershall@tavistock.gov.uk, events and associated matters.

The Council Website is www.tavistock.gov.uk.

SERVICES

WHAT THE TOWN COUNCIL DOES NOT DO

4.1 The larger principal (County and Borough) local authorities undertake the more strategic and statutory services. For example:

- The Town Council does **not** collect household rubbish or sweep the streets -West Devon Borough Council does that through its contractors Focsa Services.
- The Town Council does **not** send out Council Tax bills or pay Housing Benefit – Capita (on behalf of West Devon Borough Council) does that.
- The Town Council does **not** run the larger car parks in Tavistock, clean the toilets (except for those in the Pannier Market) or determine planning applications – West Devon Borough Council does that. However, it is planned that the Town Council will take on the responsibility of the Guildhall public toilet facilities.
- The Town Council does **not** allocate social housing – West Devon Borough Council does that via Devon & Cornwall Housing.
- The Town Council does **not** maintain roads, deliver adult social care, children's services or operate the Crowndale Tip - Devon County Council does that.

WHAT THE TOWN COUNCIL DOES DO

4.2 The Town Council provides the following facilities and services in the Town:

4.2.1 Allotments. An area of land of 1.21 hectares at Butcher Park is owned by the Town Council, and is divided into 34 allotments. From 1st April 2000 an Allotment Association composed of elected tenants took over the day to day running of the allotments, including the setting and collecting of rents, allocation of vacant plots and the normal maintenance of the area. Councillors attend the AGM of the Association.

4.2.2 Cemeteries:

4.2.2.1.Dolvin Road. This is a closed burial ground. The area will be kept under care and maintenance for the foreseeable future by the Town Council.

4.2.2.2 Plymouth Road Cemetery. The main part of the Cemetery was given to the people of Tavistock by the 9th Duke of Bedford in 1882. A modern extension was gifted in 1946 by Mr Langsford and will provide burial space for Tavistock for approximately a further 25 years. The Cemetery facilities include a Chapel with organ, a Garden of Remembrance, a 'green' burials site, and a Book of Remembrance. There is a handsome gateway to the Cemetery with an attached lodge originally designed to house the Cemetery Superintendent. A public waiting room and disabled toilets were added later.

4.2.2.3. Tavistock Churchyard. Although it is owned by the church authorities, the Town Council assists on a voluntary basis with the maintenance of the grassed area and some minor tree work accessible from the ground.

4.2.3 Pannier Market. A Market Charter was granted in 1105 to the Benedictine Abbey of St Rumon and Our Lady. The Town Council is the present custodian of this Charter which is still extant, and has the right to operate all markets within a measure of two leagues (6 2/3rd miles) of the Town. The present Pannier Market was built in 1864 by the 7th Duke of Bedford, the then holder of the Charter, and is a Grade II listed building. Markets are held every day except Sundays and Mondays throughout the year (although there is Monday opening in the summer holiday and in the run up to Christmas), and up to 170 tables each day are available for rental to traders. Website is www.tavistock.gov.uk

4.2.4. Town Hall. Built in 1864 the Town Hall is a Grade II listed building substantially renovated in the early 1990's. In Victorian Gothic style, faced in green Hurdwick stone, the Hall has a wood panelled Great Hall, a minstrels' gallery and bar facilities. It is available for a variety of purposes ranging through balls, wedding receptions, conferences, dances, exhibitions, stage shows and fairs. In January 2000 an embroidery depicting the history of Tavistock was presented to the Town by the local Embroiderers' Guild, and is displayed by the Mayor's Parlour. Also of note are some 19 oil paintings of notable persons from Tavistock's past hanging in the Great Hall. A painting by local artist Arthur Reed of the old Bedford Square and Abbey Bridge hangs in the Rundle Room. Web site is www.tavistock.gov.uk.

4.2.5. Guildhall Tavistock Town Council has taken ownership of the Guildhall complex which incorporates the former Magistrates' Court, the old Police Station and the Trowte's House and has worked in partnership with Tavistock Heritage Trust and the National Lottery Heritage Fund to deliver a Gateway Centre to the Cornwall & West Devon Mining Landscape World Heritage Site which the Council now operates.

4.2.6. Molly Owen Centre Tavistock Town Council has taken ownership of this property, it is being used initially as a Works Depot, but may be utilised for other purposes in the future.

4.2.7. Butchers' Hall – the refurbished Butchers' Hall (formerly known as The Auction Rooms) re-opened as a themed market and events venue in July 2018. It now hosts a wide range of artisan and specialist events throughout the year, some organised by the Town Council, with others organised by 3rd parties.

4.2.8. Property Management:

4.2.8.1. Commercial & Residential. The Town Council manages some 35 properties and one area of farmland, most let at commercial rents. Some are Listed Buildings and one (Court Gate) is also scheduled as an Ancient Monument. The rental income of approximately £400,000 a year

is used to defray that portion of the total Council Tax that would otherwise be payable by the inhabitants of Tavistock to fund the services to the community provided by the Town Council.

4.2.8.2. Historic Heritage A number of Listed and scheduled buildings, statues and ruins are in the care of the Town Council. These are maintained at public expense as part of the built tradition of the Town, and attract numerous visitors each year. They include:

Abbey Chapel Tower	Court Gate
The Still House Tower	Betsy Grimald's Tower
St John's Well	
Statue of the 7 th Duke of Bedford (1864)	
Statue of Francis Drake by Boehm (1883)	

4.2.9. Open Spaces:

4.2.9.1. The Meadows An area of 3.6 hectares on both sides of the River Tavy is in the ownership and care of the Town Council. Utilised as a 'Green Lung' of the Town for generations, the Meadows contains a children's play area, a bandstand, and grassy open spaces. There are tennis courts, some public and some leased to Tavistock Tennis Club. Tavistock Bowling Club leases ground at a peppercorn rental. A large area was leased in June 1987 to West Devon Borough Council for 999 years at a peppercorn rent, and is the location of the Wharf Arts Centre and Meadowlands Swimming Pool complex with associated car and coach parks. The Town Council provides a bandstand, several picnic tables and park benches. A skateboard park is sited in Benson's Meadow and there is a footbridge over the River Tavy.

4.2.9.2. Whitchurch Down. The Town Council is the holder of 'Manorial Rights' (essentially freehold and mineral rights, subject to old leases and Commoners' rights) over 188.34 hectares of Whitchurch Down both within and without the Dartmoor National Park boundary. These rights were purchased from the Bedford Estate in 1964 for the sum of £750 (£10,503 at today's values). In partnership with the following groups the Council seeks to manage the down land area by restricting the use of the land to purposes compatible with the environment and grazing rights whilst maximising the recreational, leisure and tourist potential.

- **Golf Club**. In occupation since 1890, in May 1957 two thirds of the Down was formally leased to Tavistock Golf Club for 99 years at an annual peppercorn rent.
- **Cricket Club**. Since 1849 the Tavistock Cricket Club has had use of the cricket pitch on the Down known as 'the Ring', last confirmed in writing in 1920, at an annual peppercorn rent.
- **Commoners**. The Town Council works in close co-operation with the Whitchurch Down Commoners' Association to ensure that the area is managed sensitively and to the overall benefit of all users.

- **The owners of the 'Pimple'.** In 2000 an anonymous benefactor purchased the "Pimple" from South West Water who has agreed to maintain it for the benefit of the general public.

4.2.9.3. Sandy Park. Farmland of 7.13 hectares, Sandy Park is let on an agricultural tenancy renewed in March 2002.

4.2.9.4. Middlemoor. This is a small rectangular area of common land by Edgemoor Cottages, of interest mainly to Budgehill Farm whose access track crosses it.

4.2.9.5. Tavy Cut Garden In Mount Tavy Road, a low maintenance garden.

4.2.9.6. Abbotsfield Grass bank. Opposite the nursing home, and surplus to requirements. The Council regularly cuts the grass.

4.2.9.7. Abbotsfield Open Space. A small wooded area on the north side of the Abbotsfield land, strangely left out of the sale of the House by the Town Council in 1984.

4.2.9.8. Celle Garden. DCC land in Parkwood Road, leased to the Town Council, and utilised as a low maintenance garden celebrating the twinning links with Celle.

4.2.9.9. Dolvin Road Plantation. A small area of woodland by the river bank, with a seat.

4.2.9.10. West Street Cut. A small area of land by a public path, maintained in a tidy condition and landscaped.

4.2.10. Play Areas. The Council owns and maintains the following Play Areas:

4.2.10.1. Whitchurch Play Area. Area of grassland used as 'kick-about' space, with two goal posts, picnic tables and waste bin. Also contains various pieces of play equipment aimed at a mixed age range up to 14.

4.2.10.2. Bishopsmead Play Area. This includes a separate toddler area in addition to various pieces of play equipment aimed at a mixed age range up to 14.

4.2.10.3. Ransum Way Play Area. Equipment for an age range of 4 to 14 years old. One bench and a litter bin.

4.2.10.4. Meadows Play Area. A large grassy area that contains several pieces of play equipment for an age range up to 14, picnic tables, benches and litter bins, and a fenced-off toddler play area.

4.2.10.5. Monksmead Play Area. This consists of two areas:
A small fenced green area with benches and litter bins, and an open play area containing play equipment for an age range up to 14.

4.2.10.6. Bannawell Street. The site of an old open-air swimming pool, this is an open area of 0.5 hectares. The Council has recently refurbished this park, which was officially re-opened in July 2024, which will cover an age range up to 14. The wetland area is kept under appropriate maintenance.

4.2.10.7. Benson Meadow Teen Park. A BMX/skateboard park, basketball net and teen shelter are located in Benson Meadow.

4.2.10.8. Courtlands Road Open Space. A grassed open space with a fenced in toddler play area, plus an area of play equipment for an age range of 7 – 14 years old.

4.2.11. War Memorial. Erected in 1921 by public subscription and vested in the Town Council, the Council has the statutory power to maintain, repair, protect and adapt the monument and its surrounding fittings. The Memorial was listed as Grade II by English Heritage in May 2007.

4.2.12. Roads, Footpaths, Seats and Litter Bins;

- Market Road is owned by the Town Council, and it is responsible for its upkeep, including the 1,941 square metres of roadway surface.
- Some 8,991 square metres of footpaths and tracks are the responsibility of the Council, and are subject to a rolling maintenance programme.
- The Council maintains 612 metres of fencing, 3,860 metres of hedging, 2,131 metres of drystone walls, 55 gates and 3 footbridges in and around the property that it owns.
- Over 200 seats are either owned by the Council, or are the property of others and maintained by the Council as agents.
- A total of 27 litter bins and 14 dog 'poop scoop' bins are maintained by the Council.

4.2.13. Public Lighting. A total of 8 floodlights (Churchyard, Betsy Grimbal's Tower, Abbey Bridge and Drake's Statue), 64 other light fittings and 55 lighting columns are maintained by 'SEC' under contract, with the electricity paid for by the Town Council.

4.2.14. Bus Shelters. A total of 11 bus shelters are owned or maintained by the Council with ownership over the longer term passing to an external company.

4.2.15. Town Clock. The Town Clock in the Parish Church tower is vested in the Town Council, who fund the maintenance of the Clock and its lighting.

4.2.16. Car Parks, roads and other open spaces;

- **Guildhall Square Car Park.** Twenty car parking spaces are provided for short-term car parking in the Guildhall Square Car Park, the Car Park being owned by the Town Council. In partnership with Devon County Council some 'Victorian' bicycle racks were erected in 2005.
- **Pixon Lane area of open space.** While not a formal Car Park, the open space in Pixon Lane opposite the Cattle Market is used for the parking of heavy vehicles under the control of the Cattle Market lessees. Two buildings to the south of the area are operated as a Scout Hut and a Miniature Rifle range under leases from the Council.
- **Down Road 'triangle'.** An area of 481 square metres at the Whitchurch Road end of Down Road is used for free car parking by local residents and users of the Cattle Market. This area is vested in and maintained by the Town Council.

4.2.17. Statues. The statues of Sir Francis Drake (in Plymouth Road) and the Duke of Bedford (in the Guildhall Square Car Park) were erected by public subscription and their care and maintenance is vested in the Council.

4.2.18. Cattle Market. The traditional livestock market is owned by the Council and leased to a firm of Auctioneers.

4.2.19. Goose Fair. For many years the Council has assumed responsibility for the administration of the annual Goose Fair, working closely with West Devon Borough Council. This involves liaising with fairground operators and traders, co-operation with the police and other authorities, setting and collection of rents and charges for traders sited on the highway and on land owned by the Town Council, and the administration of bills associated with the Fair. A 'Park & Ride' scheme is also organised by the Council to alleviate the parking and transport problem in the Town on the Goose Fair day.

4.2.20. Grants Under LGA '72 s137 the Council has powers to give general grants to a set total 'for purposes which may bring a direct benefit to the area or any part of it or some or all of the inhabitants'. Grants are made on the basis of support only to truly local charities and organisations. The Council also currently holds the 'General Power of Competence' under which Grants can be made. Up to £17,500 per year is regularly disbursed. Organisations which receive support are typically, sports, recreation and volunteer organisations.

4.2.21. Charities The Town Council is responsible for the administration and accounts of the Jessie Ann Alford charity, (Charity Commission Number 200626) which provides a Christmas gift of approximately £100 cash to a maximum of eight selected widows and spinsters over 60 years of age and living in the Town of Tavistock.

4.3 OTHER CIVIC ACTIVITIES

4.3.1. Council Management and Administration. The Council has a duty to host an Annual Town Meeting, and hold an Annual Meeting and at least three other meetings in the year. There is a duty to support the Committee structure and to take Minutes, and these are open to inspection by electors of the Town.

4.3.2. Planning and Development Consultation The Town Council, as a consultee, has the right to be notified of any planning or development application made within the Town, and the right to comment to the Planning Authority on the matter. The Council is thus an integral part of the development control process through the three-weekly meetings of the Development Management & Licensing (formerly Plans) Committee. It is also supporting the development of a Neighbourhood Development Plan for the town.

4.3.3. Representation on External Bodies. Councillors are deputed by full Council to represent them at various organisations in the Town.

4.3.4. Civic Focus and Activities:

- **Churches.** Tavistock civic parish encompasses two Anglican Church parishes, (Whitchurch and Tavistock), each with its own Parish Church. Close ties are kept with both vicars, grants are made to assist in the Whitchurch churchyard upkeep and the Town Council maintains the Tavistock parish churchyard. Links are kept with churches of other denominations by their clergy being invited to lead the Council in quiet reflection before each Council Meeting.
- **Schools.** The duty to appoint a governor to local primary schools ended in 2003. However, the Town Council takes every opportunity to involve the young people of the Town in civic activities.

4.3.5. Twinning The Town has formal twinning links with Pontivy (France) and Celle (Germany). There is a longstanding Twinning Association in Tavistock. Reciprocal exchange visits are made and school exchanges fostered and encouraged.

4.3.6. Town Museum The Museum is operated by the Local History Society, and located in the Court Gate scheduled building. The Council raises no charges for the occupation of the building.

4.3.7. Visitor Information Centre The Visitor Information Centre is operated by Tavistock Heritage Trust within the Guildhall Gateway Centre through a partnership arrangement with the Town Council.

4.3.8. Agency Management of Bedford Square. Acting as the agents of Devon County Council the Town Council took on the task of managing the bookings for Bedford Square from 4th January 2000.

