

Community and Recreation in Lostwithiel

Status; TC approved 6/12/2016

The strength of Lostwithiel lies in its sense of community which is expressed in a vibrant range of clubs, activities, and associations through which residents support each other while enhancing their own lives. The historic character of Lostwithiel and the sense of heritage it involves means that residents feel a part of a living entity that long preceded them and to the future of which they must plan.

The Community Centre has been actively run by its volunteer trustees and staff and is a much valued resource that has provided a venue for many activities. It is currently closed for structural repairs, which has limited group activity, though there are plans for its future redevelopment. Other organisations that provide meeting space for a variety of local groups include the Scout Hall, the Cadet Drill Hall, the Church Rooms, and the Conservative and Social Clubs. The Town Forum provides a small meeting room on Lostwithiel station.

There are many charitable events and, in particular, the annual summer carnival week, the beer festival, and the cider festival. Seasonal activities organised across the town include LostFest, a summer festival of music and crafts, the annual Christmas Pageant the Dickensian evening, when local businesses open in Dickensian dress in preparation for Christmas, and the New Year's Eve Parade of Giants, when local groups compete with their constructed giants to march through the town in celebration of the New Year.

Education and culture

Lostwithiel has two primary schools and numerous pre-school and after-school activities. Lostwithiel Pre-school specialises in forest school sessions. For secondary schooling students must travel to Bodmin, Fowey, St Austell or Truro (for independent sector education). Further Education facilities are offered in Bodmin, St Austell and Truro.

There is an active local branch of the U3A with activities ranging from photography and languages to ukulele.

The library provides an essential focus not only for the borrowing of books but also for adult book groups. Many children also use the library space. It has operated with limited opening hours, reducing possible usage, and Cornwall Council have decided that they will no longer run the library and the Town Council is consulting on ways to retain this essential resource.

A lively Museum, run by volunteers, is housed in the historic Guildhall and maintains a good collection of artefacts, an archive for local history, and publishes a regular newsletter. Its work is linked to the local Old Cornwall Society that organises meetings and talks on aspects of history in Lostwithiel. The Museum organises regular town heritage walks.

Lost in Film, a volunteer group, runs a regular film viewing, twice each month, in the Church Rooms. The organising group has raised funds for digital viewing facilities that are made available to other local groups. Lost in Song, a local choir, gives public performances throughout the year and organises a season of well-attended 'Sing Along the River' public concerts on the Parade every August. Other groups provide a range of cultural and musical events.

Health and social care

There is a well-provided doctor's surgery in town with three GPs, a team of nurses, nurse practitioners, and healthcare assistants, and health visitors. The practice works closely with a local Pharmacy. Hospital out patient services are provided in Bodmin, St Austell

and Truro, and a minor injuries unit is located in Bodmin. Hospital facilities are difficult to access for the elderly population because of the lack of public transport.

A Dental Practice was established some years ago and has five surgeries in operation. The Practice is not currently accepting NHS patients and many residents have been on a waiting list for treatment for some years.

Sport and play area analysis

In July 2014, Cornwall Council adopted the Open Space Strategy for Larger Towns in Cornwall. Table 1 details the provision of Parks and natural space in Lostwithiel and compares it with the average for Larger Cornish towns

This document recognises that attractive, safe & accessible parks and other open spaces contribute positive social, economic and environmental benefits. Open spaces including play areas are valued community assets improving public health, well-being and quality of life, and bringing regeneration benefits to an area.

Table 1. Existing & proposed provision of all open space in Lostwithiel					
Typology	Existing provision (m²/ person)	Average/ median for larger Cornish towns - m²/person	Recommended future quantity provision standard town wide		Existing requirements based upon an assessment of distribution
Public sport	1.79	2.88	Increase to meet PP standards	18.3 - ty8	
Children's Equipped Play	0.50	0.5		0.7	Victoria area possibly, dependent on location of new housing
Teen provision	0.37	0.13	Existing meets future needs	0.35	Good distribution.
School pitches & clubs	5.24	27.84	Investment or new to increase capacity	18.3 – ty3	Requires increased availability to community.

The level of outdoor sports when combined (public and private sports space) is considerably lower than the larger town average, but this is partly as a result of the allowance for the closure of the nearby golf course. **An analysis of sports pitches alone indicates a lower than average provision.**

- **Average level of children's play**

There is an exceptionally high level youth provision owing to the good standard of facilities at King George's Field.

The present situation with Sport and leisure

Numerous local sports groups take advantage of local facilities. A Bowling club on land leased from the Duchy of Cornwall at Restormel Road is well used in the summer months, is well maintained, and well supported. A Kettle weights training group is run by a British champion on Restormel Industrial Estate. An Angling club operates on its own stretch of the River Fowey and many other fishermen use the free parts of the river by Coulson Park and Shirehall Moor. Canoeing and Kayaking take place on the river on an ad hoc basis, with several vessels being stored by the river just outside of Coulson Park. The King George V playing field has been recently provided with a new Skate park. There is also a versatile tarmac court for basketball and netball, and a recreation area used by the Lostwithiel Football Club. Private facilities include Lostwithiel Golf Club (currently being redeveloped as a 9-hole course) and local health clubs and gyms.

Snooker is played at the Conservative club and the Social Club. Pool is played at the Social club and the Kings Arms. Darts are played at most licensed premises. Bingo is played weekly and Table Tennis twice weekly in St. Bartholomew's Church Rooms. Other activities include pilates, yoga, slimming, dance, and keep fit.

Local groups are organised for a whole range of other activities. Lostwithiel has a wide range of youth groups catering for all ages.