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**Maypole Gardens Refurbishment 2024**

In September 2024, Marazion Town Council received amazing news that a grant application for £140,000 submitted to Cornwall Council under the Community Levelling Up Programme was successful.

This project, totalling £160,000 is part-funded by the UK Government through the UK Shared Prosperity Fund. Cornwall Council has been chosen by Government as a Lead Authority for the fund and is responsible for monitoring the progress of projects funded through the UK Shared Prosperity Fund in Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly.

Maypole Gardens are owned by St Aubyn Estates and leased to the town council. An area of public open space approximately 0.08acres in size and lies right in the heart of the conservation area in Marazion, the old part of the town.

Originally an open green used for public entertainment, which did in the 19th century, include the town Maypole (hence the name), the Maypole Gardens in Marazion has, and continues to serve, as a central meeting point and source of beauty for all who live in Marazion and all who visit the town.

However, time and wear have taken their toll on the gardens as well as the changing needs of residents and visitors and this grant funding opportunity will deliver a refurbished, accessible, public open space which breathes new life and energy into the Maypole Gardens by creating a vibrant and inclusive community space that celebrates the town's heritage, adds to the local economy while providing modern amenities.

The key elements of the refurbishment project are to provide:

* **Accessibility for All.**

Ensure the gardens are accessible to everyone. This includes installing ramps, widening pathways, and seeking to create designated accessible seating areas.

* **A Place to Rest and Relax.**

New, comfortable seating will be installed throughout the gardens, providing ample space for visitors to relax, socialise, or simply enjoy the surroundings.

* **A mini Minack theatre concept to showcase local talent**.

A small, permanent performance space will be constructed within the gardens. This will provide a platform for local musicians, artists, and performers to showcase their talents and enrich the cultural life of Marazion.

* **Local Economy.**

An attractive and well-maintained garden can be a draw for tourists, encouraging them to visit Marazion and spend money in local shops, restaurants, and cafes.

* **Improved aesthetics of the gardens.**

Lead to a more positive perception of Marazion in travel guides and online reviews, further attracting visitors.

It is intended for carefully selected sculptures dotted throughout the gardens, adding a touch of artistic flair, and sparking conversation among residents and visitors and potential solar-powered lighting to illuminate the gardens after dark. This eco-friendly solution will provide a night-time ambience while reducing the project's environmental footprint.

* **Volunteer Opportunities**

The creation of volunteer opportunities to help with the staging of performances as well as with planting and the maintenance of the planting once complete.

Cornish Heritage Builders, St Aubyn Estates sole authorised building contractor have been approved to carry out the refurbishment. They specialise in restoration, renovation and conversion projects working in partnership with the owners of St Aubyn Estates and the National Trust. The architectural drawings have been drawn up by the National Trust’s appointed architect to St Aubyn Estates.

The refurbishment scheme has been designed by the architect specifically to be sympathetic to the area and to the standard St Aubyn Estates and the National Trust requirements whilst fulfilling our key elements listed above.

For more information, please contact the Town Clerk at Marazion Town Council on 01736 710234 or e-mail at townclerk@maraziontowncouncil.gov.uk

