

## Press Release

### Another boost for a Green Heritage Hub in Penzance

The Gardeners' House charity welcomes the news that the first tranche of Penzance Town Deal funding has been released by the Government to Cornwall Council. This news brings The Gardeners' House another step closer to their goal of saving a disused building adjacent to Morrab Library in Morrab Gardens, and creating a new, flexible community hub. The project aims to address the area's social issues through education and community outreach, drawing on the past to inform the present and build a better future for Penzance and beyond. Development funding of £53,870\* has already been awarded by The National Lottery Heritage Fund to help The Gardeners' House progress their plans to apply for a full National Lottery grant at a later date.

The Gardeners' House will work with partner organisations to reach vulnerable members of the local community. They will develop a range of people and plant-based activities including an interactive Sensory Garden and Social and Therapeutic Horticulture programme to bring the green heritage alive. These activities will have particular focus on benefits for local dementia patients and users of the adjacent Pengarth Day Centre.

As a Sustainability Hub, the refurbished building will provide connection for Penzance's network of green groups, and a base for Sustainable Penzance. In addition, the activities will support their target themes of climate action.

The building will also provide a home for Special Collections and Archives of over 2000 volumes documenting the natural history of Cornwall. Activities based around these resources will include themes of Cornish Natural History, Women Gardeners, and Environmental and Therapeutic Horticulture.

Commenting on the news Doreen Pinfold, co-Chair of The Gardeners' House - Penzance, said: "the Board of Trustees is delighted to acknowledge the support from the Town Deal, Cornwall Council and Penzance Town Council in enabling the project to go forward. Our vision is for this building to become the centre of community-based activities celebrating the green heritage of West Cornwall."

Paul Brett, from the Friends of Morrab Gardens, said: "we know Morrab Gardens is loved by local residents and visitors to Penzance alike, and renovation of this near-derelict building will give the Gardens a real boost. An important part of the project is to provide a base for the professional gardeners and volunteers who work all the year round to maintain the gardens - something we desperately need!"

**ENDS**

# Notes to editors

## About The Gardeners' House – Penzance

The Gardeners' House - Penzance has been formed to renovate the old stable building in Morrab Gardens, and then to run it as a Green Community Hub. It is registered with the Charity Commission as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO). Other local organisations will play an important part in the project, but as a CIO The Gardeners' House will take the lead in raising funding, commissioning the necessary renovation work and then managing the building.

In addition to funding through the Penzance Town Deal, The Gardeners' House has received grants from the National Lottery Heritage Fund, the Architectural Heritage Fund and Penzance Council. Morrab Gardens is owned by Cornwall Council who will be supporting the project by providing the old stable building on a 99 year lease.

Website: [www.thegardenershouse.org](http://www.thegardenershouse.org)

Social media: @thegardenershousepenzance on [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#)

## About the Friends of Morrab Gardens

The Friends of Morrab Gardens (FoMG) is a group of volunteers who support Morrab Gardens through fundraising and practical tasks assisting the professional garden team. FoMG is one of the partner organisations working with The Gardeners' House – Penzance.

Website: [www.morrabgardens.org](http://www.morrabgardens.org)

Social media: @morrabgardens on [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#)

## Government Towns Fund – Town Deals

On 27 July 2019, the Prime Minister announced that the Towns Fund would support an initial 101 places across England to develop Town Deal proposals, to drive economic regeneration and deliver long-term economic and productivity growth. See further details of the [announcement](#).

A Town Deal is an agreement in principle between government, the Lead Council and the Town Deal Board. It will set out a vision and strategy for the town, and what each party agrees to do to achieve this vision.

[See the 101 places being supported to develop Town Deals.](#)

Each of the 101 towns selected to work towards a Town Deal also received accelerated funding last year for investment in capital projects that would have an immediate impact and help places “build back better” in the wake of Covid-19. View a list of [accelerated funding by place](#) (PDF, 266 KB, 11 pages)

## Penzance Town Deal and Accelerator Towns Fund

In June 2021, Penzance secured a Town Deal of up to £21.5 million following the successful submission of its [Town Investment Plan](#) for a range of regeneration projects. For more information about Penzance Town Deal visit <https://lovepenzance.co.uk/pz-town-deal>

In addition, each of the towns selected by the government to work towards a Town Deal were invited to apply for accelerated funding to invest in capital projects that would have an immediate impact and help places 'build back better' in the wake of the Covid-19 pandemic. Penzance was allocated £500,000 through the Government Accelerator Fund to kick start the delivery of projects in 2020.

Cornwall is the only area in England invited by Government to submit proposals for four of its towns: Camborne, Penzance, St Ives and Truro. After conducting extensive public consultations, each town deal board submitted their Town Investment Plan in collaboration with Cornwall Council in Jan 2021. As a result of this work, the Government announced in Spring 2021, that Cornwall will receive up to £88.7million as part of the Towns Fund. Following the submission of the projects' business cases, the ratification by Government of the Penzance Town Deal and first release of funding is expected in September 2022.

Cornwall Council is the accountable Body for the Town Deals programme in Cornwall and supports the governance role of the four Town Deal Boards and the fund administration. For more information visit: [www.cornwall.gov.uk/business-trading-and-licences/economic-development/towns-fund](http://www.cornwall.gov.uk/business-trading-and-licences/economic-development/towns-fund)

### **About The National Lottery Heritage Fund**

\* National Lottery Heritage Fund grant applications over £250,000 are assessed in two rounds. The Gardeners' House – Penzance has initially been granted round one development funding of £53,870 by The National Lottery Heritage Fund, allowing it to progress with its plans. Detailed proposals are then considered by The National Lottery Heritage Fund at second round, where a final decision is made on the full funding award of £1.8m.

Using money raised by the National Lottery, we Inspire, lead and resource the UK's heritage to create positive and lasting change for people and communities, now and in the future.

[www.heritagefund.org.uk](http://www.heritagefund.org.uk).

Follow @HeritageFundUK on [Twitter](#), [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#) and use #NationalLotteryHeritageFund

Since The National Lottery began in 1994, National Lottery players have raised over £43 billion for projects and more than 635,000 grants have been awarded across the UK.

## **Further information**

For further information, images and interviews please contact Miki (Sara) Ashton, Project Coordinator, at **The Gardeners' House - Penzance** on 07974 996089 or [info@thegardenershouse.org](mailto:info@thegardenershouse.org)