

Cornwall Councillor Report – St Austell Bay Parish – April 2023

I managed to get a week and a bit off for the Easter Holidays so haven't done as much as normal. Nonetheless, here are some of the highlights of issues around St Austell Bay Parish over the past month.

The Beryl Bikes are now in place in St Austell and the surrounding area, with bays and bikes allocated for Charlestown on Charlestown Road. They appear to be getting a good deal of use around the town and I am told that the provider has a dedicated member of staff to go and retrieve any that are misplaced.

The resurfacing work on Porthpean Road has been carried out between the Cromwell Road junction and the approach to the new roundabout. This looks much better now – thanks to Cormac for doing this.

Cormac have also now repaired the failed steps between Duporth and Charlestown. Much better now, thanks to the excellent Countryside team for their continued diligence on our behalf.

Less helpful is the continuing and contradictory in which Cornwall Council and Cormac continue to treat the Parish Council's request for resident parking and waiting restrictions in Charlestown and Duporth.

Having reached what I thought was a decent compromise following extensive consultation from the parish council, a number of site visits and presumably resource and staff time from Cormac, I was shocked to be told that Cormac were not going to proceed with the plans as set out.

I have challenged this with Cornwall Council and met with them yesterday, only to be told the same thing, that what the parish has asked for goes against highways policy and so it is not allowed, despite the parish council and myself previous being told otherwise and agreeing to pay for the costs of implementation themselves.

I have challenged this with the Cabinet Member responsible for Transport, both the outcome, and if it remains the same how this has been allowed to happen.

I have also asked that the Cornwall Council officer and 2 Cormac officers who have previously spent time advising the Parish Council and myself about this come to a parish council meeting and explain to the parish council and any public who are in attendance exactly what has happened here and what they think should happen next. They have agreed to do so, subject to whatever the Cabinet Member says.

I had my annual visit to Charlestown School, meeting with Headteacher Mark Clutsom.

It's always great to visit this school and see the staff and pupils, and catch up with some of the work they are doing, in this instance the Anderson Shelter that has been built alongside some raised beds to 'Dig for Victory' to help immerse the children in their Second World War history topic.

We also talked about Curriculum Kerwenek, which we recently covered in our Children and Families Overview and Scrutiny Committee, the school's excellent

collaborative work with Charlestown Harbour, and Mark's passion for IT, which is very evident in the innovative ways children learn throughout the school.

In planning matters I continue to chase the planning department for an outcome on the Nest application in Charlestown which fulfils all of the required conditions.

I also note that the application by Wainhomes is now scheduled for a committee meeting, which will probably take place in June.

Thanks to everyone who came out from Duporth, Carlyon Bay, Charlestown and St Austell for our Beach clean at Porthpean on 25 March.

The beach itself was remarkably clean but we managed to get a load of stuff from around the surrounding area and fill up a whole sackful of nasties.

On a recent coastpath walk I noticed the bench that is about halfway between Charlestown and Carlyon Bay is looking pretty dilapidated. Depending on whose responsibility it is, I'd be happy to work with the Diggers and Doers to clean it up, which is similar to what we do in Mevagissey when we identify issues like this.

Finally, community projects helping to tackle climate change or boost nature recovery are being invited to bid for a cash injection of up to £5,000 from Cornwall Council and Crowdfunder.

The Cornwall Climate and Nature Fund is aimed at supporting Cornwall to become carbon neutral, help nature recover and to protect biodiversity in land, rivers and seas.

To apply, community groups need to have a crowdfunding project or set one up on the Crowdfunder website.

If their activities meet the criteria they can apply for a grant to match fund up to 50% of costs up to £5,000.

If you want any more information on this, please contact me and I will be happy to help.