

Cornwall Councillor Report – St Austell Bay Parish Council – April 2024

I hope you are all well as we go through April.

I have continued to meet with Porthpean Outdoor Education Centre about the ongoing works on the site to repair the fire damage. These are still on track to be finished in May.

Cornwall Council and Cormac continue to be in early discussions with various stakeholders about work on Charlestown Leat.

At the time of writing we had a meeting booked with the Portfolio Holder to talk about the Duporth Hill traffic management scheme via Teams on 18 April. Frustratingly he has still not committed to an in-person meeting at the time of writing.

I will also be attending a meeting on the devolution of the Regatta Field later this month when it is confirmed.

And I have been keeping a close eye on the planning application for the elective surgical hub at St Austell Community Hospital, the entrance of which is in the St Austell Bay Parish. I am pleased to confirm the planning permission for this application was granted on 17 April and hope to see it built later this summer.

Generally speaking, Cormac are receiving many reports on the boggy nature of the coastpath. Unfortunately, this is a huge issue County wide (and beyond) and none of us have ever known the coast path to take such a hit during the wet winter months. They are starting their biannual coastpath surveys shortly so will have a better understanding of the trail in their areas and may have to draw down from Capital to improve/repair particularly bad sections. What we desperately need is some dry weather!

When I get to call a planning application in and speak at Central Planning, it is an important part of my role as Cornwall Councillor for Mevagissey and St Austell Bay.

I was worried to hear earlier this week, that changes had been made to how Central Planning Committee meetings are run, which restricted planning committee members from asking questions of members of the public and parish councillors who speak at these meetings.

I believe that in order to have an informed debate on any particular application it is vital the committee members are able to ask as many questions as possible in order to get the broadest possible understanding of what it is they are voting for. I find it helpful when committee members ask questions of me (and hopefully it's reciprocated!) as part of this process. I'm

I am pleased that at Full Council on Tuesday the responsible committee gave assurances that these changes will be taken back to their next meeting and reviewed and hopefully reversed - something which I spoke in favour of earlier today.

I'd encourage anyone with concerns to get in touch with the committee and let them have your feedback and am grateful for Pentewan Valley Parish and Carlyon Parish Council (so far) for agreeing to do so!