

Cornwall Councillor Report – St Austell Bay Parish – January 2023

I hope you are all well and Happy New Year to you.

I was able to take a week off over Christmas so this report may be a little shorter than usual.

Earlier this month, working with neighbouring councillor Richard Pears, we both pressed Cormac to take some work on the appalling state of Porthpean Road, which needs more than just reactive pothole filling to sort out.

We were pleased to subsequently get a response from them that confirms they have taken on board our feedback and will be resurfacing this stretch of road from the Cromwell Road junction to the new estate roundabout on or around March 20th, working through the night to do so.

Cormac have also confirmed that as per their earlier commitment following my request last year, that they will be shortly laying down chippings on Mill Lane, the path that runs down the side of Chandler's Walk, and the new section of coast path between Charlestown and Carlyon Bay.

They have also said they will be putting in new fingerposts at both SWCP entrances at Charlestown and at Mill Lane, following my requests in 2021.

I have arranged for Annan from Highways to come out and meet with the Parish Council on 24 January to discuss the traffic management plans, with a meeting at Pattern Hall followed by a walkaround of the areas in question.

I was pleased to see the community defibrillator which we have all provided funding towards installed at Porthpean Beach earlier in January. Well done to Liza Crabtree and all who contributed towards such a successful fundraising campaigning, and thanks also to my neighbouring councillor, Jordan Rowse, for also contributing from his community chest fund towards it.

I have had reports of people riding motorbikes on the revamped stretch of coastpath between Porthpean and Charlestown - Cormac have been made aware and have attended and put up signage making it crystal clear this is not allowed, and they will take further measures if needed.

Please don't do it, apart from anything else it's a health and safety risk to both riders and other users, and heaven forbid, an accident happens, it would be very difficult for the emergency services to get there.

Finally, on 17 January I was pleased to join the unanimous vote at Cornwall Council to take advantage of new powers offered in the Government's Levelling Up and Regeneration Bill, which will allow us to charge second homes that are not primary residences and holiday lets that pay council tax, 100% additional council tax from 2024.