

Cornwall Councillor Report - St Austell Bay – September 2021

I hope you all at least survived the incredibly busy summer season. The weather now seems to have taken a turn for the worst but it was nice to be able to enjoy the weather while it lasted.

I met with residents, Cormac and the Parish Council to discuss car parking problems on Duporth Road. Some short term fixes to deter parking in hazardous areas with cones were agreed and implemented, and will stay in place until covid regulations end, which is currently on 30 September.

As well as this, some long term proposals to tackle parking in the area while helping the residents in the cottages at the bottom of the road, were proposed.

Cormac have now replied which I can present as follows:

'At our meeting recent meeting at Duporth Road, we discussed a residents parking scheme for the handful of cottages where we stood.

Cornwall's policy on Residents' Parking is contained in the Traffic Management Parking Policy Statement agreed by Cabinet in 2016.

In summary, residents' parking will only be considered as part of a wider transport strategy for a town, as introducing it with a piecemeal approach can result in commuter or other visitor parking migrating to neighbouring residential areas. As I mentioned on site, in relation to Charlestown, we received enquiries about parking concerns along Charlestown Road, Church Road (and Julie Larter had also shared a recent enquiry about this road) as well as the Castings Drive area, so these residents wouldn't be happy if a small scale scheme were to be considered at Duporth Road.

The process of reaching a concluded scheme, if taken forward, is very time consuming and costly (with surveys, pre-consultation and TRO consultation), and to recoup costs of consulting, implementing and running schemes, this income is only likely to cover costs where a high percentage of residents purchase permits. Experience from this process is that, in most cases, strategic residents parking schemes are unlikely to be supported in most of Cornwall's towns, and small schemes do not usually work due to impacts of displacement parking and not being easily enforceable within existing regimes.

Having said all that, there is a small opening in the Community Network Panel highways scheme – the FAQs for this says:

Q17. Can residents parking requests be included in the Network Highways scheme?

Residents' parking schemes will usually not be eligible for this funding unless the following can be evidenced:

- local support for the scheme (not requiring further surveys at cost to the CNA);*

- *that the scheme is affordable (most effective residents' parking schemes need to cover large areas to avoid displacement parking – such a scale is unlikely to be affordable);*
- *The scheme is enforceable (remote schemes not on existing enforcement routes will cost more for the enforcement service)*
- *The scheme will not result in displacement parking (introducing small scale schemes often push the non-resident parking into adjacent streets)*

Here are a couple of links to the details of how the schemes are run, and the costs involved:

[*on-street-residents-parking-guidance-jan-2018.pdf \(cornwall.gov.uk\)*](#)

[*Resident Parking Zones - Quick Guide \(cornwall.gov.uk\)*](#)

As you can see, this is quite a complex and an emotive issue. Unfortunately we often have individual residents who think a scheme will solve their problems but getting consensus from other residents, particularly when they have to pay, means that getting a viable scheme in place is not often straight forward. Also, it is noted that there are more properties for space available in the bay opposite the cottages at Duporth Road, so I am not sure how well received that would be either.'

Regarding the limited waiting bay option opposite the cottages, Cormac would be grateful for details from the community and associated timings that might be acceptable to all residents in that area. Rachael did not think the costings would change much. I would be happy to work with the parish council to get his information from the residents, perhaps via a leaflet drop?

Turning to the vegetation defects that were discussed at the site meeting, Cormac confirmed that defects are categorised depending on highway safety risk. Whilst there may be evidence of growth encroaching into the highway it doesn't necessarily constitute a safety concern warranting immediate attention.

I reiterated the need for work to be done on this corner given what I believe are clear health and safety concerns and Cormac have now raises an instruction for the vegetation to be removed following the concerns raised by the community.

Finally, turning to the wider issues around Church Road that were touched on at the meeting, Cormac were keen to say that any new double yellow line or similar restrictions can be put forward by the Parish Council for consideration under any future community network-style highways schemes. The detail on the new scheme is yet to be given but I will be happy to support the Parish Council and local residents with any new schemes that come forward that ease parking and congestion issues in Charlestown and indeed, the wider parish.

Cormac also said that they would not oppose any potential park and ride scheme but that it would be for the parish council and any third parties to organise and run, as they would not have a role to play in it.

I met with a Cornwall Council officer on Porthpean Beach to discuss the signage and infrastructure around this site, which is in urgent need of review.

Subsequently, I have commitments from Cornwall Council to regularise the dog ban signage, remove out of date signage and infrastructure, remove large amounts of rubbish that had been allowed to pile up by the toilets and replace single bins with double bins, thus giving more capacity for the waste collection infrastructure at the beach. I await these points to be actioned.

I also met with Simon Hannaford from the RNLI at Porthpean to discuss safety awareness and signage across the whole of the coast of the Mevagissey and St Austell Bay Division.

I remain in regular contact with Cornwall Council's planning officer around the hybrid planning application at Duporth that has attracted comment. I will provide a further update once there is something substantive to give.

In enforcement matters, following my request in May, I had confirmation yesterday that Cornwall Council will be allocating a planning and enforcement officer to be dedicated to Charlestown. I hope this will help with the issues around the village and harbour, avoid duplication and things being missed from the council and ensure that the importance of the World Heritage Site continues to be recognised.

I have continued to report issues of asb in our coastal waters to the appropriate bodies when the situation merits it. The Parish Council may be interested in responding to the Government's consultation on better regulating the use of personal watercraft aka jet skis, which went live on Monday:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/government-to-clamp-down-on-dangerous-use-of-jet-skis-with-new-legislation>

I have scheduled the first organised beach cleans that we have been able to hold in over 18 months, in conjunction with Three Bays Wildlife Group as part of the Marine Conservation Society's Great British Beach Clean Week. The one in St Austell Bay Parish will be taking place on Sunday 26 September at Porthpean beach. All equipment will be provided by me and Clean Cornwall.

Finally, yesterday I was honoured to be invited to an unveiling of a memorial plaque to commemorate those men from Porthpean village who lost their lives in the two world wars. Thank you to Kathy Stills for putting in years of work to get to this point. It was a moving service.