

Cornwall Councillor Report – St Austell Bay Parish Council – February 2026

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

It feels like for pretty much all of the past month, it hasn't stopped raining and we have been having regular storm warnings. My division has taken a particular pounding and I have been trying to stay on top of reporting fallen trees, drainage and highway issues as they arise. My thanks go out to everyone who takes the time to report issues, either to me or via Cornwall Council's website.

In St Austell Bay Parish in particular, there was a large amount of damage to Porthpean Beach's ramp, which is out of action, with no vehicular access currently in place, although you can still get to the beach on foot from the main access and from the coastpath.

I met with Cormac on the day of the damage and have worked closely with Cornwall Council since to try to ensure the repair works are completed as soon as practicably possible.

They have now confirmed that:

- A budget for the works has now been identified.
- The works have been assigned to our Structures Team, and we've asked that they be delivered as soon as possible.
- Our Structures Maintenance Team has visited the site and produced an initial design so that the works team can begin planning.
- We've spoken with the MMO, who have confirmed that no consent is needed as long as we stay within the ramp's original footprint.
- We've also contacted South West Water and asked them to confirm the condition of their sewer.

I understand that they hope to have completed the works before the summer holidays start, although I am working with affected stakeholders, to try to get some vehicular access restored before then.

I was pleased to see Cormac return and complete their works on Duporth Road/Brick Hill. This means that the surfacing works, lining work and railing repair has all been completed. At the time of writing I am unsure if they have fully restored the virtual pavement as I was told this needs better weather for the materials used to be effective.

Cormac have also attended and resurfaced and relined Ridgewood Close, following my request last year.

Sadly the crossing assistant at Charlestown School is unable to remain in post after this half term, so the vacancy is being re-advertised, please see a link to it below, and details of employment:

Charlestown School - Total of 7.92 decimal hours per week. The hourly rate is £12.60.

Shifts = 08.15 - 08.50 and 15.00 - 15.30 Monday to Friday during the school academic term. Please note the weekly hours include a supplementary 2.5 hours per week on top of the shifts.

For more details and to apply, please see the [vacancy](#)

In an update regarding my motion at the last Full Council around proposed changes to business rates for our Retail, Leisure and Hospitality businesses.

The debate itself was a positive one with great contributions from councillors from across the chamber and the vote was passed nearly unanimously with just one Green Party Councillor voting against.

A few weeks later the Government finally announced the changes to its poorly received budget measures around support for the retail, hospitality and leisure sector.

Sadly, the additional changes, which will see pubs and music venues in England given a 15% discount on their business rates bills from April and then not see increases for two years, are simply not good enough, not for pubs, and certainly not for the rest of the retail, hospitality and leisure sector, who remain in exactly the same perilous situation as before.

Now that the Government has confirmed its position, I have asked that Cornwall Council Cllr Leader Leigh Frost to send his correspondence to the Chancellor setting out the additional support measures that Cornwall Council has called for, for the whole retail, hospitality and leisure sector, as well as ensuring that the council's website has clear and up to date guidance on it for businesses on how to deal with the proposed changes and access support as it becomes available.

As ever, should anyone need assistance with any matter, please do contact me on 07885 277670 or at cllr.james.mustoe@cornwall.gov.uk and I will do what I can to help.