

Cornwall Councillor Report – St Austell Bay Parish Council – November 2025

I hope you are all well as we head through November.

It was an honour to attend various remembrance events around my division on Remembrance Sunday and on Armistice Day earlier this month, including paying my respects at Charlestown's War Memorial on Armistice Day.

Thanks in particular to the Royal British Legion for the organisation of the various services.

Charlestown traffic scheme update TBC

I was pleased to speak with the Chair of the Parish Council about the continued positive movement with the assets that Wainhomes are intending to transfer to the Parish Council. This is a fantastic opportunity for the Parish Council and I have said I will work with the council's devolution team to ensure those assets which have Cornwall Council involvement can be released as soon as is practicable.

I have raised the query about a bin to serve the playing fields on Church Road with Cormac and they have suggested transferring a relatively under-used bin which is at the top of Arch Hill to the pavement and verge that is virtually opposite the playing fields. I would be grateful for the parish council's thoughts on this so I can go back to Cornwall Council accordingly.

It was a pleasure to visit Charlestown School again for an update on their progress so far this term and to meet with the Headteacher. I am now closely working with the school in a governor capacity as well as in my regular Cornwall Council role.

Cormac have now signed off the consultation report for the Parking Restrictions and DYL and it is with Cornwall Council to review and approve.

They have started preparing the construction package so that once they have approval they can issue, and the works can be added to the programme. They would hope to issue in December so that it would be possible for the works can be undertaken in the first few months of 2026. It will of course depend on what other work has already been programmed.

Although they aren't in my division, I know that many people living locally, as well as in the wider St Austell area, are deeply frustrated by the chaos being caused on a daily basis by the roadworks that have been on the Porthpean Road junction and have now moved to Charlestown Roundabout.

These have recently been exacerbated by unrelated roadworks by South West Water on Carclaze Road, and I'm sure the upcoming overnight closures on the A391 i.e. 'the old new road won't help either.

The works on Porthpean Road etc are being carried out by a contractor on behalf of Wales and West Utilities Ltd. They are what is known as a Statutory Undertaker and as such are able to programme in works to their infrastructure, while Cornwall Council, as the highway authority would normally have much more of a say in their timing etc.

When local councillors were first made aware that these works were planned, I flagged up concerns to Wales and West about their timing (24/7 for 12 weeks!) and impact on the nearby schools in particular.

The response was:

'Due to the type of works on this project, the traffic management will remain in place 24hrs a day. The lights will be monitored and any issues will be addressed straight away.'

I do not believe this has been happening and have on multiple occasions had to contact the Highways Inspector, who has been out to ensure the contractor is doing what they are supposed to do. If they don't, they can be fined.

I believe this is sadly only going to get worse once the schools are back.

As, just one example, when you come out of Porthpean Road junction, where the works previously were, more often not there is traffic queued now back up from the roundabout, meaning the one way junction to Porthpean Road towards Victoria Road etc is blocked. I have contacted the Highways Inspector and suggested the junction has keep clear signs deployed on it to avoid this happening.

We are also seeing much more traffic on roads through Carlyon Bay, Charlestown and Tregorrick as a result of these roadworks.

I share the deep frustration felt by local residents and businesses about how these works are being carried out and co-ordinated and will continue to flag with the Highways Inspector as I encounter issues.

When I last contacted Wales and West Utilities I was also told:

'You will be able to contact the traffic management company, Core Highways, on the following numbers 01872 510944 and 0330 0433030 out of hours.'

Their email address is:

info@corehighways.com

Wales and West can be contacted at:

complaints@wwutilities.co.uk

I would encourage anyone who feels strongly about this to contact the contractor and Wales and West and let them know. They won't read Facebook posts but if contacted

direct by the same number of people who are upset about these issues that I see on Facebook, I am sure they will quickly get the message!

I have also co-ordinated, written and sent a letter from six of the local Cornwall Councillors to the CEO of Wales and West Utilities about their management of these roadworks.

As we write, moving forward we want to see an assurance from Wales and West Utilities Ltd that their contractor will diligently and correctly manage these roadworks, to avoid the major issues in and around the roadworks that we are currently seeing.

We have asked for an assurance that every opportunity to work to progress these roadworks is taking place, to justify the 24/7 traffic lights, and that every effort is being made to finish the works on time, or ahead of schedule if this is practicably possible.

Last Friday it was great to join the Community in Action event at the Innovation Nursery on the edge of St Austell Bay Parish

It was good to catch up with volunteers from local community groups including the White River Project, Three Bays Wildlife and the Neighbourhood Development Plan Steering Group, hear from a panel of local experts on farming, planning and the environment, and hear more about the future of the nursery site.

A really positive evening.

The latest version of the Community Area Partnership Highways Scheme is now live and taking bids, which need to be in by December. The Parish Council will get to make one bid (for one scheme), and I get to make one bid (for one scheme) across my whole division, into the annual circa £75,000 cross Community Area Partnership budget.

One of my aims as Chair of the Cornwall South Community Area Partnership (CAP) is to use some of the CAP resource to identify potential funding sources for local projects from elsewhere and then promote this funding and support funding bids.

This will be a bi-monthly newsletter which identifies useful funding opportunities for local groups which we can then also support as an organisation.

The first newsletter is now live and I have included a link to it below:

[Newsletter](#)

At County Hall I met with council officers, Clean Cornwall and Cabinet Members Hilary Frank and Loic Rich regarding the Council's next steps following my Keep Cornwall Clean motion from the last Full Council.

It's amazing hearing about the work Clean Cornwall is already doing, and I'm looking forward to working with the council and Clean Cornwall to enable and empower volunteers across Cornwall to work together to keep our Duchy clean.

There will be more to follow, including a Cornwall Litter Summit for incredible local volunteers to come together and inspire and share practice, work from Cornwall Council and partners as part of its Litter Action Plan and Waste Strategy and a publicity drive to shout about what is already being done and how you can get involved.

As an aside, Clean Cornwall came out with the amazing statistic that volunteers have collected the equivalent of at least 35 skipfuls of rubbish so far this year. This is only what has been reported to them. A tremendous effort but the fact that this waste is out there in the first place is very sad - we must do more to crack down on the cause as well as take more efforts to clean up!

Finally, 6 November marked 11 years since I was first elected to serve as Cornwall Councillor for Mevagissey division.

Since then, the area I represent has changed, losing St Goran Parish and the top part of Pentewan Valley and gaining lovely St Austell Bay and Carlyon Parishes, colleagues have come and gone, I've picked up a few grey hairs!

But the one thing that has remained consistent over those 11 years is my commitment to serving the people and communities I have been honoured to be elected (4 times now!) to represent.

I can truly say there's never a dull moment and I always look forward to seeing what the day brings, to having an open mind and being prepared to learn new things to help me carry out my role as best as I can.

As I head into my 12th year, thank you to everyone who has helped me and been there in some way over the years, it makes such a difference, and particularly to my family, who I could not do this without.

As ever, should people require my assistance on any matter, please get in touch on 07885 277670 or at cllr.james.mustoe@cornwall.gov.uk