

Cornwall Councillor Report – St Austell Bay Parish – December 2025

I hope you are all well as we head towards Christmas!

Cornwall Council moved the bin from above Arch Hill down to Church Road near the park, as requested by the parish council last month. If there are any issues with it, this can always be revisited in the future.

After much moaning by me, Cormac have confirmed that Duporth Road/Brick Hill is due to be closed for surfacing works in the New Year. They also intend to repair the railings as part of the works. This is very timely as the road has taken a battering due to the increased traffic that has used it while the works on the roundabout were ongoing.

Speaking of these works, it appears as of the time of writing that they finished early, on 15 December, when they were originally programmed to go on until 23 December. Hopefully this will be the last of major roadworks in this vicinity for a while.

On 4 December it was great to meet with Harbourmaster Mat to see the progress being made on the installation of the new Charlestown Harbour Gate.

This is a truly remarkable piece of engineering, requiring really careful handling and it was really interesting to watch the team at work. Hopefully the gate will be fully operational by February.

On 26 November I went to the very well attended AGM of the Duporth Development Community Interest Company. I am pleased to have continued to work with the volunteer directors through the past year to help realise their collective aims for the estate, with the majority of roads, pavements and streetlights adopted by the council earlier this year following a long wait.

I visited Charlestown Primary School for their welcoming of the Christmas Tree festivities. Lovely to hear the school choir sing as well as a group from the Cornwall Choir Collective. It was also great to go along to their Key Stage 2 Carol Concert at St Paul's last week.

I am also discussing with the school, police and Cornwall Council around concerns around traffic parking on the road by the school at pick up and drop off times, as well as people not driving with due care and attention around these times. Traffic enforcement officers and police have attended the school at various times in the past week, but a more permanent solution, such as a crossing, could help – this is potentially something the parish council could consider for a future community area partnership highways scheme, should Cormac agree to it.

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A lot of my activity in the past month has been around raising awareness of the potential planning application on land near Tregorrick.

I spoke to nearby stakeholders about the plans, as well as with neighbouring St Austell Town Council and St Austell Bay Parish Council, none who had been told about them.

I also shared information on the developer's consultation event, which otherwise would not have been made available to the public until one day before the event was due to take place.

Although the developer's part of that event directly clashed with Full Council, which would have made it impossible for Cornwall Councillors to attend during that time, I did go along after Full Council as a member of the public and spoke to the developers and their representatives about their plans.

It was a full discussion on a number of points, and I encouraged the developer to engage fully with all three of the Cornwall Councillors whose divisions are either part of, near or immediately adjacent to their site, as well as the wider parish and town councils, going forward, whatever their ultimate destination is.

The next round of the Cornwall-wide Community Infrastructure Levy is opening in January.

The upcoming round aims to support more infrastructure projects that strengthen connections between communities. The goal is to make both existing and new places work better together.

Projects may include:

- Upgrading community assets to increase capacity where development has created extra demand
- Improving connectivity within and between communities to enhance access to local facilities
- Creating or upgrading footpath links
- Enhancing recreational and educational facilities

To find out more, see the link [here](#)

I was concerned to hear the announcement from First Bus that they will be ceasing operating their services in Cornwall from February 2026, and appreciate the worry this will bring to the people who rely on these services to get around, as well as those who work for First Bus and whose jobs are now at risk.

Thank you to those people who have reached out to me about various aspects of this announcement and future plans for the affected routes.

Cornwall Council's Cabinet Member for Transport, Cllr Dan Rogerson, reached out to members, and I have included some aspects of his communication below:

'The decision to withdraw from Cornwall is an entirely commercial decision, and not one of the Council.

Cornwall has one of the largest rural bus networks in the Country with 50% of services primarily being delivered by Go Cornwall Bus (under contract and funded by Cornwall Council) and the remaining 50% on a commercial basis by First Bus. Cornwall Council does not fund First Bus services, aside from the separate Truro Park and Ride contract.

In response to the announcement made by First bus today, Cornwall Council will work tirelessly with other operators to understand how the commercial network can continue to run beyond 14 February. The Council simply does not have additional funding to support the gap left by First Bus. We fully recognise its critical value in transporting the people of Cornwall to their places of work, study, appointments and social network. We fully understand the critical role that bus has in Cornwall's wider economy as a major employer and a connector of people and services.

We will work closely with Cornwall's MPs to lobby central government to for the funding that is needed to ensure the long-term stability of our bus network, particularly in the light of the recent Royal Assent of the new Buses Services Act 2025 that sets out the value of 'socially important' services. Arguably, all of Cornwall's bus services are socially important given they connect our communities to each other and the essential services that people rely on including health, employment and education.

However, most importantly, [we] will also work with the industry to ensure they communicate with the people of Cornwall on a regular, and in a timely, manner given we know just how unsettling this news may come to the travelling public who rely on our bus network.'

I am grateful to Cllr Rogerson for setting out this position in a timely manner. I will do all I can, as far as my role stretches, to try to safeguard the routes currently run by Go Cornwall/First Cornwall that operate in the Mevagissey and St Austell Bay Division.

Up at County Hall I was pleased to be a supporter of, and to have had significant input into the creation of a cross-party motion put forward by Conservative, Lib Dem, Independent, Green and Reform councillors for the most recent Full Council calling on Cllr Leigh Frost, the Leader of Cornwall Council, to write to the Home Secretary and record Cornwall Council's strong opposition to plans from Government for Mandatory Digital ID.

This is something I have had a good deal of contact from local people from, all in opposition, from across the political spectrum, and I believe it is the wrong decision for our country.

Apart from the issues around personal freedom and choice perspectives that relate to such a scheme being mandatory from those who have contacted me, I also have concerns about the security of any data that is collected under this mandatory scheme and what else it could be used for in the future.

I was pleased to see the motion pass with a veritable landslide – with Cornwall Council being a trailblazer in the country for such opposition – and hope the Government will listen and act accordingly.

I would like to take the opportunity to thank the Parish Council for their support and hard work over the year, and wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy and Healthy 2026.

As ever, should you require my assistance with any matter, please let me know via email on cllr.james.mustoe@cornwall.gov.uk or on 07885 277670.