

Cornwall Councillor Report – St Austell Bay Parish Council – December 2022

As we head towards Christmas I hope everyone is doing well.

It has been great to be out and about around the parish supporting the festive events, as well as numerous local small businesses during the Small Business Saturday event at the beginning of the month.

Onto other matters:

I attended what I thought was a productive meeting with the applicant around the Nest site in Charlestown earlier this week, along with some members of the Parish Council.

As well as discussing the current planning application, which is to regularise various elements of the historical approval, it was also good to get an assurance from them that they hope to have grid power to the site by Christmas, and the road resurfaced at the beginning of the year. It was also helpful to have a discussion about the gate and access to the site, and this will be discussed further by the Parish Council later this evening.

In response to the poor weather over the past weekend I made several calls to Cormac and secured refilling of all of the division grit bins, which was all done earlier in the week. Thanks to those people who have been out and gritted the roads in their areas.

It was good to see the tree planting by the Charlestown History Group at the recent Battery Refresh event. I am pleased to have recently signed off on a contribution from my Community Chest budget towards the restoration of the flagpole at this site.

On Porthpean Beach I was pleased to lead beach cleans on the 19 November and 1 December. Thanks to everyone who came out and it was good to remove a load marine litter from the beach including several mussel floats, which we dragged to the slope and reported for retrieval by the mussel farm.

I also reported water running down the steps at the beach on the slope, which has subsequently been dealt with by Cormac.

On traffic matters, after discussions with Cormac, the consultation for the waiting restrictions on Porthpean Beach Road is going ahead and is live as of yesterday, as it was published in the Cornish Guardian, However it is yet to show up on the consultation website!

Cormac are currently preparing a works specification for the Parish Council in terms of the request for a feasibility/consultation for 'Residents only parking' at Charlestown. As suggested by me they are holding off on the requests for waiting restrictions in this area, so that they can be considered holistically as part of these plans, and to prevent exacerbation of the current situation. I have requested a meeting with their planner and the parish council to walk around the areas where the measures are proposed in the New Year to make sure they are properly considered.

In Duporth I have been in liaison with Cormac about recent works that have taken place on the highway and footways on the estate. These are the responsibility of Vistry and their contractor JLES, none of these works are being carried out by Cornwall Council or anyone on Cornwall Council's behalf.

The works are to bring the carriageway and footways of the vast majority of the estate up to an adoptable standard.

It is purely to do with the highways (road and pavement) only and nothing to do with the other issues, which are between Vistry and the CIC.

This will include the removal of the 20mph signs as there is no traffic regulation order in place to make them enforceable and they are therefore illegal and would not be allowed to be up on a public highway. Whilst the roads are not currently adopted, they cannot be adopted with the signs in place, hence their removal. The pavement/footways works are scheduled for 22-23 November, weather dependent, and there are road resurfacing works scheduled for 28-29 November.

Once this is done Vistry are meeting with Cormac in early December, date TBC, to make sure the works have been done to an acceptable standard.

A legal document called a Deed of Easement needs to be completed alongside this and then the estate's roads will be adopted. Cormac are currently waiting for Vistry's legal team to get back to them on this.

There is also an issue with the spur road that goes past the courtyard, as this will need to have significant work done on it. While the aim is still to get it adopted, in order to not delay adopting the rest of the estate, this will be done later.

On a wider note, with the closure of the Penwinnick Road offices Cornwall Council services, including face to face services in St Austell have temporarily relocated to Carlyon House, the big office block by Polkyth Leisure Centre in St Austell.

As we head towards the end of the year, I wanted to put on the record my enormous gratitude and thanks to the parish council for everything you've done over the past year. As volunteers, you are truly unsung heroes of our community.

I wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy and Healthy New Year for 2023.