

## **Cornwall Councillor Report – St Austell Bay Parish - February 2025**

I hope you are all well as we head through February, which has been a busy month that seems to have gone by really quickly.

Firstly after bugging Cllr Connor Donnithorne all day at the last Full Council meeting, he finally bypassed the officers and agreed to allow the parish council to proceed with the Duporth Hill parking scheme.

I'd like to put on record my personal thanks to Cllr Donnithorne for listening and making an evidence-based decision to back the parish council, after years of us being told it was not possible, with no real reasons being given.

I have since been in contact with Cormac about this, who are in turn liaising with the parish council on this scheme, but at the same time will also be coming forward with the other double yellow line and bus stop revision around Charlestown and Duporth that were also previously on the table.

I have also been on at the council for months about the state of the road in Ridgewood Close. I have had a sort of positive response to this, as they have said they will do some minor repairs straight away and have also asked that these are addressed and for the main areas to form part of our trials for a new innovative lower carbon surface treatment type in next financial year.'

So hopefully that's good news, and I will do all I can to get the resurfacing done as early as possible in the new financial year, if I'm still here.

Also off Porthpean Road, the NHS and Cormac have agreed on the location of the dropped kerbs for the crossing and extension of the pavement on the hospital side, so this is currently with the NHS procurement team to get dates to start work.

There was another big storm that saw a lot of trees falling, this time the majority of which were reported to me were in Mevagissey Parish, however the one that got the most attention was at Trenarren

Trenarren is a beautiful secluded hamlet with a lovely community there.

Sadly its remote nature can be an issue in times like these - a great big tree fell down and completely blocked the only road in and out of Trenarren, this was eventually made safe and cleared after two days of being cut off. I also then spent some time liaising with the CEO office at Openreach to ensure their internet was switched back and not forgotten about, and this was eventually done by the beginning of the second week of February.

Speaking of trees, this month I have been copied into a number of third party landowner issues around trees that have been cut down where the correct permissions have not been sought.

While Cornwall Council cannot and will not get involved in issues between landowners where there are no council assets involved, I thought it would be helpful to put in writing that:

Under UK law, you are entitled to trim or cut any overhanging branches from your neighbour's tree, up to the boundary of your property. This is known in UK law as the "right to abate a nuisance." The main legal requirement is that, if you choose to cut from an overhanging tree, you must not trespass onto your neighbour's property to do so. Other than that, you're well within your rights to cut from a tree which is encroaching on your property.

The exception to this, and where Cornwall Council absolutely get involved, is where works are carried out without permission on trees with a Tree Preservation Order (TPO) or trees in Tree Preservation Area. Works carried out without permission to trees with these protections are a criminal offence and the council can and will take action if appropriate.

There have been some landslides at Porthpean Beach, the coast path is currently not affected but please exercise caution if in the area.

Cormac have been out and cleared blocked gullies on the eastern approach to Charlestown along the SWCP.

They have also removed debris from the steps at Porthpean and offered support to the sailing club around the landslide below the access to their boat storage area.

I am also told their works on Mill Lane will be concluded before Friday!

Sarah Scoltock and I met with a resident and Lyndon Allen about historic mine and flooding issues in land adjacent to the Regatta Field and the knock on effect this might have to both the land in question but also back to Holmbush. We have subsequently sought and got a meeting with a number of council officers to discuss how the council can press the Duchy to take action and potentially avoid bigger issues down the line.

I met with Charlestown Harbour to see the start of their works, funded by the Shared Prosperity Fund, to replace the historic harbour gates. I wish them well with this project.

Charlestown History Group asked me for community chest funding for a new laptop. Unfortunately my budget is exhausted for this year, but I was able to work with local IT company Duchy Pro Solutions to source a laptop for them. Thanks to Duchy Pro Solutions for your generosity with this.

On broader matters It was great to visit the Mid Cornwall Hub along with my neighbouring councillor Michael Bunney, Community Link Officer Sarah Scoltock and some of our local PCSO's to meet with local residents with a range of additional needs.

What an amazing warm and nurturing environment, just brilliant to speak to the service users and staff about their experiences and roles, as well as talk about our work as councillors and how we can listen to the voices of what is an underrepresented group of people. I will definitely visit again.

I also met with the new St Austell area Sector Inspector Simon Andrews at St Austell Police Station.

Our police do a great job locally and it was good to talk to Simon about his priorities for both St Austell and the surrounding communities over the coming months, as well as bring him up to date on some local issues and potential areas of interest in my division for future scrutiny.

Thanks to Simon and his excellent team for all they do, and I look forward to working with them in the future.

Up at County Hall it was great to see the motion stating that Cornwall Council backs a Cornwall only devolution deal and saying a big fat NO to a combined Devon and Cornwall Mayor was passed by a veritable cross-party landslide.

A positive and encouraging debate too, which it was good to participate in.

Onwards and upwards, Kernow bys Vyken!

Finally, the latest and last round of Shared Prosperity Funding has now launched, with applications being open until the end of February. I have already contacted organisations who have previously expressed an interest and am happy to support and signpost anyone else who wants to come forward, bearing in mind the tight timescales.

As ever, should people need to speak to me about any issues, please contact me on 07885 277670 or at [cllr.james.mustoe@cornwall.gov.uk](mailto:cllr.james.mustoe@cornwall.gov.uk) and I will do my best to help.