

## **Cornwall Councillor Report - St Austell Bay Parish - April 2026**

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

It's been another busy month with a lot going on.

I convened a meeting of Cormac, Cornwall Council and stakeholders on Porthpean Beach on progress made on the repair of the beach slipway.

I felt it was really important to give all involved an update on this important work ahead of what I am sure will be a busy Easter break.

Cormac have been cracking on with their work, with all that needed to be excavated removed (this is now being transported to Tregongeeves Depot and will be reused as aggregate), and the first load of concrete for the new ramp due to be poured in later this week.

They are still on target to finish in May, weather and tides permitting, and pedestrian access has been and will continue to be maintained throughout.

It was also great to catch up with Stacey from the Sailing Club, and Elliot from Porthpean Outdoor Education Centre, about their work and upcoming schedules for the year.

I was pleased to play a small part in the event to mark the re-opening of Charlestown Harbour following the completion of the works to replace the harbour gates along with other works to improve the integrity of the dock and harbour walls.

This was partially funded by Cornwall Council via an application to the Shared Prosperity Fund which I suggested and supported, although the majority of the credit lies with Charlestown Harbour.

It was great to see the harbour so busy on the day itself and throughout the first week of the Easter Holiday and I look forward to seeing the plans for this historic part of Charlestown for the future.

I attended a meeting of the Duporth Development Community Interest Company with residents of the estate and volunteer directors.

It's always great to support this vibrant community in this brilliant spot in St Austell Bay.

In March the Government made money available to assist households on low incomes who are struggling with costs of heating oil with the recent large increases due to international events.

Cornwall Council has subsequently launched a new scheme, which is called the Crisis and Resilience Fund and will replace the Household Support Fund and the current Crisis & Care Awards scheme.

It includes an extra £1.5 million to help residents on a low income who rely on oil, following recent price increases.

To find out more, and apply, if you think you are eligible and haven't already been contacted, follow the link [here](#)

I met Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State at the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government Miatta Fahnbulleh MP, along with Cornwall Council's Cabinet Member for Tourism, Localism and Planning, Cllr Sarah Preece, local MP Noah Law and Camborne and Redruth MP Perran Moon.

We showed off the brilliant new Chi Austel family hub and then had a walkabout of the town centre, with a frank discussion of the challenges Cornish towns like St Austell face.

All the Cornish representatives were united in pushing the Minister for replacement government-provided economic growth funding for Cornwall, be that the Pride in Place fund that I wrote about recently or something else, anything to help boost our communities. The substantial number of bids we have seen this year for the council's Community Infrastructure Levy, many of whom will be disappointed, goes to show how much demand there is for support like this in our Duchy.

As I've always said, I will work with people of all parties to get positive change for our Cornwall and that is what I am doing.

The Minister did take on-board our comments and I hope she will do all she can to secure more funding from the Government for Cornwall.

I attended the launch of the joint Cornwall Council and Department for Work and Pensions Youth Hub initiative.

Youth Hubs are designed to provide enhanced support, opportunities, and guidance for young people within our communities.

It was a privilege to hear from the passionate and experienced team of staff from across both organisations, as well as partners such as Pentreath on their innovative vision for the Youth Hubs, as well as see a showcase of the services available to young people.

In particular it was good to hear direct from some of the young people about what they want from the provision, as well as some case studies where it has already provided positive outcomes in assisting people back into work.

Cornwall Council is asking for views on new draft plans to protect Cornwall as an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.

Around a third of Cornwall is classed as a National Landscape, and feedback will help shape how it is cared for in the future.

There are two surveys available - one for residents, community groups and local organisations, the other for our partner and stakeholder organisations.

You can find out more, and fill out the survey via the link [here](#)

In some good news, you can now recycle soft plastics from home, including items like bread bags, frozen food bags, bubble wrap, wrappers and film lids.

Keep them together in a bread bag or similar, tie a knot to stop them blowing away, and place the bag in your red recycling bag.

If there isn't space, you can leave the tied bag on top of your black box or alongside your recycling so it stays secure on collection day.

With The Great British Spring Clean St Austell Tidy Up Team litter picks done, we are pleased to say we have picked up 154 sacks of rubbish from St Austell and the surrounding area in our group and individual efforts over the last two weeks of March. This goes alongside the many larger items collected and fly tips reported. A massive thank you to everyone who took part, both in our group and others around the local area.

As ever, should anyone need any assistance with issues I can help with, please contact me at [cllr.james.mustoe@cornwall.gov.uk](mailto:cllr.james.mustoe@cornwall.gov.uk) or on 07885277670.