

Cornwall Councillor Report - St Austell Bay Parish Council – June 2025

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

Following May's Local Elections, things are now becoming a bit clearer at Cornwall Council in terms of who is running the council.

The first Full Council of the current term saw Bodmin's Leigh Frost elected as Leader of Cornwall Council. I've known Leigh since his election in 2017 - he's a good local man with a young family who I know stood to represent his community for the same reasons I stood to represent mine. Politics is a team game, and although our politics with a big P differ in some areas, I appreciated Leigh's conciliatory speech prior to his election and I look forward to working with him and his new Cabinet to serve the people of Cornwall over the coming years.

Moving on to local issues:

I was pleased to visit St Austell Community Hospital for a tour of the brilliant new MIU with Matron Margaret West.

Margaret is one of the most experienced and passionate people working in health care that I know and it's just amazing to see her vision for the MIU realised, with this upgrade and refurbishment nearing completion after 7 months of work.

The MIU now boasts more open spaces; there is a larger waiting area dedicated to the MIU, which can seat up to 30 people. It now has 2 bays, which can take up to 4 beds at a time, as well as 3 treatment rooms.

There's also a large screen picture of Mevagissey in the reception area!

Along with the recently opened Elective Surgical Hub, this is more much-needed investment into the St Austell Hospital site. Well done and thank you to everyone involved in realising this project for our area.

Moving onto highways, as I think I mentioned prior to the elections, one of the things I have been asked by residents to see if I can make happen is to move the national speed limit on Porthpean Road, from where it currently is, which is right by the hospital entrance, to further back 'up' the road, past the Porthpean Beach Road junction. I hope that the parish council will support this, when the next round of Community Area Partnership Highways funding becomes available.

Regarding the Duporth Hill parking scheme and double yellow lines around Charlestown, following recent site visits and discussions, Cormac were scheduled to send the latest plans to the parish for review at tonight's. Provided there are no significant changes to the designs resulting from that meeting, they anticipate being in a position to undertake the formal consultation for both schemes—Residents' Parking and lining—in mid to late July.

On a slightly more strategic road issue, I was pleased to see the works on the A391 conclude, just about on time, and hopefully the new surface is an improvement on what was there before. I hope the council has learned lessons on the importance of communicating promptly and accurately with stakeholders and the wider community on big infrastructure projects like this.

Related to this, I was pleased to arrange a litter pick of the entire closed section of the A391 on 24 May, where we were escorted to and from the closed A391 by Cormac, and spent 2 hours litter picking its entire length.

It was 28 Days Later-like in being so quiet in sections and as well as removing loads of rubbish from the verges we also could appreciate some of the wildflowers and less seen features like the plaque from when the 'new' road was first opened 26 years ago!

I was also delighted to have enabled Lee and the team at Biscovey YFC in getting material from Cormac and Cornwall Council from the recent A391 closure, to help in upgrading their ground. Thank you too all at the council who assisted in making this happen, great outcome!

I saw the below funding opportunities and thought it might be of interest:

Nature:

<https://naturesave.co.uk/naturesave-trust/>

Town halls:

<https://acre.org.uk/main-grants-scheme-for-village-halls/>

High streets:

<https://www.cornwall.gov.uk/business-trading-and-licences/economic-development/town-regeneration-and-investment-programme/>

Finally, looking at another new role for me, I am delighted to confirm my appointment as co-Chair of the Cornwall Learning Disability Partnership Board.

Working with Healthwatch Cornwall, the Cornwall Learning Disability Partnership Board connects individuals with learning disabilities, carers, and service providers to improve local services.

It ensures their voices are heard in shaping health, social care, and community support. The board fosters collaboration, identifies key issues, and promotes positive change for inclusive, person-centered services.

The Learning Disability Partnership Board provides an opportunity for people with a learning disability, their families and carers to work with professionals to improve the lives of people living with a learning disability in Cornwall.

I look forward to using my experience on the Council over the past 11 years, plus lived experience as a SEND parent to contribute in this really important area.

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