

Cornwall Councillor Report – St Austell Bay Parish – May 2025

I hope you are all well as we head into the summer months.

It's been a hectic few months for me, culminating in the local elections which were on 1 May.

I was delighted to be returned again, with an absolute majority – 50% of the vote, to represent Mevagissey and St Austell Bay for the next four years on Cornwall Council.

Given the absolute hammering that the Conservative Party took both across Cornwall and nationwide, I am humbled to be returned, particularly with such a majority, and am grateful to those who gave me their support, of all political persuasions and none, to continue being Cornwall Councillor for our wonderful area.

That being, said, it is now time to look forward.

Locally because of the fluid situation around the leadership of the council, this means that there has been no cabinet or leader to speak to since 1 May, which has made some of my typical work on your behalf a bit more difficult than usual.

As I write this, it remains to be seen what the new administration of Cornwall Council will look like, as the elections returned a result of no overall control at county hall. This will be voted on at the Full Council which takes place on 20th May.

My first priority will be working with all like-minded councillors to ensure the council keeps running, is able to deliver its services, and to support vulnerable people who need our assistance.

And I will continue to do all I can to be your local champion and deliver for our area and for Cornwall.

In terms of my work since the election, the vast amount of my time since election has been spent taking numerous complaints, concerns and feedback over the way in which the closure of the A391 for resurfacing has been handled.

I think it would be fair to say that the closure and how it has been handled has not been communicated well. While the council has legitimate reasons for closing the whole stretch of the road, rather than doing it in sections, for instance, this had not been well communicated to the public.

I have worked with the council to feedback the numerous issues raised with me and have in doing so, got additional signage to protect walkers and horse riders put in and around Tregrehan Mills, additional business specific signage for businesses affected, and additional measures to support access to the HWRC, as well as ways to improve the flow of traffic in St Austell itself.

I will continue to feedback concerns as they arise and hope these works will be concluded as quickly and efficiently as possible.

It was good to attend another meeting with some of the parish council, Cormac and local residents to discuss the detail of the Duporth parking scheme as well as exactly where the DYL on Charlestown Road will go, towards the end of April. I have asked for an update on where this is with Cormac following the elections and hope these will soon be implemented.

It was good to attend a meeting with Charlestown Harbour to discuss the work being done to replace the harbour gates, which has been partly funded by a grant of Shared Prosperity Fund from Cornwall Council. Working with the sea is always unpredictable but it's good to see them making progress on this important infrastructure project.

Finally, I was honoured to play a small part in the parish council-organised VE Day 80th Anniversary celebrations at Charlestown last week. It was a perfect evening for a beautifully located service, beacon lighting and music from St Austell Town Band. Thanks to the parish council for arranging.

As ever, should anyone need my assistance with anything, they can get in touch by email at cllr.james.mustoe@cornwall.gov.uk or on 07885277670.