

## **Cornwall Councillor report – September 2024 – St Austell Bay Parish Council**

I hope everyone is well as we move towards September.

I took a couple weeks away from council duties in August to be with my family and it was also great to have a completely surprise birthday party for my 40th from my amazing wife Laura at Mevagissey Social Club on 17th August which took some getting over from. Thanks to everyone who came along and apologies for my karaoke!

This aside, Cornwall Council does tend to be a bit quieter during the summer period due to staff holidays, so I don't have as many updates as I normally would anyway!

Cormac got around to doing the work on the road down to Porthpean Beach which I originally requested in January, the surface of which was redone, as well as work on the soakaway from the spring above the beach. Sadly they did it on a busy summer's day without telling the Outdoor Education Centre who run the beach or the Café that they were coming, so there was a bit of chaos there. At least the work has been done now though.

I was also invited to an event at Porthpean Beach with some of the team from the National Lobster Hatchery, releasing 600 baby lobsters into the rock pools with the help of members of the public and people using Porthpean Outdoor Education Centre.

We had a fantastic talk about the vital work the hatchery does and the life cycle of the lobster and then dispersed to put the lobsters (mine was called Larry) from test tubes into nearby rock pools.

It was good to see so many locals and visitors alike joining in for what was a fun and educational event.

Also in August, it was great to join Debbie Richards, CEO of the Cornwall NHS Primary Foundation Trust, for a tour of St Austell's new Elective Surgical Hub.

It is frankly astonishing how quickly and effectively the NHS has been able to put this facility into place - I have followed and supported the plans through the planning process earlier this year and was on hand to see the units that were constructed off site arrive only a few months ago. The building now fits well into the site and is an absolute marvel.

The hub is now in place and in the final stages of being fitted out, with local companies doing a lot of this work. It was good to meet some of the team who will be working there when it opens in October (they are fully staffed), see one of the new operating theatres, and talk about the impact this will have on the backlog of surgical cases (they expect to do 5000 day surgery procedures a year).

I was also pleased to see and hear about some of the green and sustainable initiatives that the NHS have in place for the site and for some of the ideas they have on working with the community.

A brilliant example of the PFT's continued investment into their St Austell site, which is so dear to many of us.

While I was visiting the hospital, I also got their support in principal to extend their pavement out to the Porthpean Road, and work with Cormac to put a crossing in there by dropping the pavement on the other side of the road. With the hospital's expansion, the site will be busier and it good that increased provision to access it by foot has now been agreed on.

I have also taken feedback from a number of Porthpean Road and Ridgewood Close who are asking that the national speed limit, which is currently very close to the hospital entrance, is moved down the road closer to Porthpean Beach Road junction. The hospital is also supportive of this, and having spoken to Cormac, this would need to come forward as a Community Area Partnership Highways scheme, as annoyingly, it cannot be included in the consultation that is currently ongoing for the 20 is plenty measures.

Speaking of the 20mph measures, they are currently online and members of the public can respond to the consultation, which is live until 13 September, on the Let's Talk section of the council's website. Porthpean Beach Road, Porthpean, the new Duporth estate, and all of Charlestown are currently indicated to go to 20mph. Porthpean Road and part of Duporth Road (Brick Hill) is not.

At County Hall later this month, I will be back in the deep end, having seconded my councillor colleague from Looe Armand Toms's motion to ask that South West Water is made a full consultee on planning applications. With our aging waste water infrastructure and the constants demands to build more houses, it is imperative that this aspect of planning is tightened up and I am pleased to second this motion that asks to do just that.

As ever, should anyone need to get in touch about anything, please do let me know via [cllr.james.mustoe@cornwall.gov.uk](mailto:cllr.james.mustoe@cornwall.gov.uk) or on 07885 277670