

Cornwall Councillor report – St Austell Bay Parish Council – February 2023

I was very sorry to see the fire at the iconic Pier House in Charlestown on 20 January. I spoke with management at St Austell Brewery and local residents and staff on the evening of the fire and all praised our fire service, who came from across Cornwall to get the fire under control and put it out.

My thanks to the staff at the Pier House, who I understand acted with the utmost professionalism in evacuating the building quickly and safely, and the fire service for their swift action in containing a fire that could have been a lot worse.

I subsequently spoke to the Group Manager for our fire service about their response, as well as their investigations into the cause of the blaze, which are ongoing, as well as Brewery management, who have been clear that they will do whatever it takes to restore the Pier House to its former glory.

I have since visited the site and spoken to the General Manager at the Pier House and personally thanked him and his team for their professional handling of the fire evacuation

I am sure the wider community of Charlestown and St Austell will join with me in wishing them all the best for this outcome.

I met with Parish Council reps and Cormac about the proposed traffic schemes around Charlestown in what I thought was a really positive meeting on 24 January. As a result there are revised plans before the Parish Council for comment at tonight's meeting.

I visited Trenarren and the road to it. This is the only way in and out of the village and it's a real mess, potholes everywhere and a real problem with the road surface falling away near the car park.

The good news is that Cormac have agreed they will resurface it in the next financial year, but I am pushing for them to do it sooner rather than later, and in fact since first drafting this report, they have come back already and said they are now aiming to move it forward and complete these works in May 2023. They have also confirmed this will include the road to Trevisick Farm.

I have also chased them about getting a footpath in Trenarren adopted following a substantial delay.

Thanks to the clerk and Cllr Reynolds for your time and assistance with these issues.

I met with David Treleaven of Trevisick Farm to discuss a wide variety of rural issues.

Since the changes to my divisional boundaries in 2021, I lost a number of the farmers I used to represent in St Goran Parish, so it was brilliant to be able to catch up with such an excellent local business in the St Austell Bay Parish.

We discussed a load of things, including highway matters, diversification, challenges of attracting a younger workforce to the farming industry, supply and demand issues, and rural crime.

Thanks to David for having me - I really appreciated the time spent there, particularly on such a nice day!

In Charlestown I met with a Duchy representative and the Parish Council Clerk to talk about works to facilitate devolution of the Regatta Field. Hopefully we have a way forward here which will get this done sooner rather than later.

I also went with a resident along the back road from Porthpean to Pentewan, looking at various highway defects and reporting them all. The Highways Manager has since come back and said that the safety inspector will visit and determine whether reactive repair work is required if there is a

safety hazard, however this sounds like it's a situation that has occurred overtime. More significant patching works or verge reconstruction will need to be considered against available budgets in April 2023. They will ask the highway steward to monitor this location.

In my role as Cornwall Council's representative on the Duporth Development CIC I met with senior planning officers from Cornwall Council, along with the other directors, on 2 February to discuss long-term issues with the maintenance of the whole site, which will be referred back to the developers for their attention.

Cormac have said they will be repairing a failed step along the South West Coast Path between Carrickowel Point and Duporth.

They also need to bolt the last finger post at Charlestown into the ground by Coastguard Lane, as the surface was not suitable for it be installed in the normal way.

It's been great to see the continued work being done by the Charlestown History Group at the Battery.

On 5 February they did another Battery Recharge event, and the whole site is looking much now clearer now ahead of a flagpole being reinstated there later this year, which I have been pleased to help support via my Community Chest Fund.

I was only to stay for a little while and help feed the bonfire, but a huge thanks to Andy and all the volunteers who work all year round on this excellent project, and to Cormac who have cleared several trees on the site.

On 10 February I met with Cormac about the Porthpean Beach Road waiting restrictions and agree with their recommendations that they should be implemented as advertised. Thanks to everyone who took part in the consultation.

Finally I wanted to put on record my thanks to Caitlin Lord, who is shortly leaving Cornwall Council and has been an excellent community link officer for the area. All the best for the future Caitlin!