

Cornwall Councillor Report February 2024 – St Austell Bay Parish

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

I have continued to raise various highway issues with Cormac that have been aggravated by the poor weather we've had recently.

In particular the blocked highway gullies on the lower part of Duporth Hill, the water leak that is coming out of the road near Porthpean House, and the dip that is prone to flooding on Porthpean Road near the Duporth Crossroads.

I will be walking Mill Lane from Charlestown to Porthpean Road on 20 February with Cormac and a rep from Charlestown School to see if anything further can be done to increase accessibility for mums and dads with buggies, to encourage people to walk to school.

Just outside the parish but I know a lot of residents walk their dogs there, I was pleased to work with a number of local residents to clear the pavement off Tregorrick Road next to the dog bin and make it a lot wider so people can walk on there now without having their dogs in the road.

Due to forecast breezy conditions this week, Cormac have had to suspend the planned tree works due to take place at Charlestown Road opposite Penrice School, and Mount Charles Roundabout. These works require the use of a mobile elevated work platform and this plant would be unsafe to operate in the conditions expected. Hopefully they will be rescheduled soon.

I was delighted to represent Cornwall Council at the ground breaking ceremony for the new elective surgical hub at Penrice Hospital.

Having lived and worked in Mevagissey and St Austell all my life, Penrice Hospital has been a key part of my family and so many other local residents lives.

Both our children were born there, my Grandma spent time there towards the end of her life, and we have all had cause to visit the Minor Injuries Unit at various times.

Community Hospitals such as Penrice are critical parts of the local health infrastructure, and it is fantastic that the NHS has chosen to invest in the Penrice site with an elective surgical hub.

The elective surgical hub will take the pressure off other local NHS services, help clear the backlog and bring in extra jobs to the area, and I hope it will become operational as soon as possible.

I have written supporting the planning application that has gone in and hope it will be put through shortly.

Regarding the planning application before the parish council from Porthpean Outdoor Education Centre, I have been working closely with them on this since the terrible fire they suffered last year, literally the day before they were due to reopen, that damaged their communal facilities and kitchen, making them unusable last year.

The great team at Porthpean Outdoor Education Centre heroically worked in less than ideal conditions through the summer months, but are now working at pace to get the building fixed, hence the planning application, which I fully support.

The Outdoor Education Centre is a jewel in Cornwall's crown in terms of offering unique activities for our young people, and I hope the planning application will pass soon and the building reopen in time for their summer season.

On 14 February I was pleased to see the definitive map modification order for the public right of way across the front of the Rashleigh and also around Quay Road finally signed off. This is now live going forward.

Last week I was made aware that the King Charles III Charitable Fund's Small Grants opened has now opened, with grants of up to £5,000 will be awarded across 6 funding themes: environment, countryside, social inclusion, health and wellbeing, heritage and conservation and education

Community-based organisations, including charities, community interest companies, and parish councils can apply.

The fund aims to support small-scale projects that have the potential to create substantial impacts within their communities, especially those that typically face challenges in accessing larger funding sources. They expect to award about 100 grants per year.

The deadline is the 22nd February 2024 and you can see the application process via the link below:

<https://www.kccf.org.uk/small-grants/>

As ever, should people need assistance with any matter, please get in touch with me at cllr.james.mustoe@cornwall.gov.uk or on 07885 277670 and I will be happy to help.