

Cornwall Councillor Report – St Austell Bay Parish – June 2023

I hope everyone is well and was able to enjoy the lovely weather we had through most of May and the early part of June as of writing. Hopefully this will continue as we head towards the Regatta Week and the summer holidays!

One of my roles as Cornwall Councillor for Mevagissey and St Austell Bay is as a volunteer director on the Duporth Development Community Interest Company.

The CIC is an organisation formed when this large development of several hundred houses and apartments was first conceived well over a decade ago, on the site of the old holiday park at Duporth, a way for the residents to be able to eventually manage the many areas around the estate, not just the traditional green spaces and footpaths but also the beautiful woods and beach.

However this is all a work in progress. Rome wasn't built in a day, and the process to handover these assets to the CIC has been a slow and laborious one.

Since my election I have been pleased to work with both current and former directors to bring some resolution to these long running issues.

I have been working with Cornwall Council and Cormac to finally get most of the roads and Footpaths on site adopted as public highway, something which should happen in a matter of months now, after years of waiting.

And we have gotten Cornwall Council and Vistry, the main developer, back around the table to sort out once and for all who is responsible for what, and what the handover process will look like.

This approach has led to Vistry taking steps to fix and bring up to standard assets such as the path and steps from the coastpath to Duporth Beach (pictured today during my walk there), as part of the process to prepare them for handover. This is particularly useful, given that the general public can access the beach from them. This could have otherwise been landed with the CIC and residents to do, which would not have been good. What we now have is a massive improvement and has not cost the CIC, and therefore the residents, anything.

I look forward to seeing Cornwall Council adopt the Duporth roads and infrastructure soon, and Vistry continuing to work with us to ensure all areas they are responsible for are identified and brought up to a good standard before they are handed over.

Thanks to the current and former Directors of the CIC, who are all volunteers, for your work in getting us this far.

Following another site meeting with residents, and a virtual meeting with planning officer, I was pleased to see some detailed comments resubmitted by the parish council on The Nest application, which I hope reflects what the residents want as well as hopefully getting to a position where this prominent development can finally be finished to a standard that meets the parish council and Cornwall Council's approval.

Although it took longer than originally planned, it is great to see the resurfacing works at Trenarren and Trevissick Farm carried out to an excellent standard, which hopefully should serve the local residents well for many years to come.

Porthpean Outdoor Education Centre has now reopened with new tenant Cornwall Outdoors, and I look forward to visiting it soon with members of Cornwall Council's Children and Families Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

Finally I can advise that the new community link officer for the St Austell, Mevagissey, St Blazey, Fowey & Lostwithiel CAP is Sarah Scoltock will be joining us on Monday 26 June. Sarah currently works as a Locality Commissioning Manager in Cornwall Council's Adult Care & Support directorate. Sarah will meet the wider partnership at the first CAP meeting on 11 July. Helen Nicholson and Roger Gates, who are currently covering the area, will support Sarah while she completes her induction.