

Cornwall Councillor report – St Austell Bay Parish - May 2022

I hope you are all well as we move through May.

In a few updates from the past month.

I have spent a large amount of time looking at the continued and frustrating issues around the coast path at Charlestown.

Needless to say this has been a very involved issue. Thanks to Cormac and Cornwall Council officers who have worked around the clock to try to deal with the two objections which had been received, one of which was withdrawn last week.

Regrettably one remains - and thus the same situation with the closure that we have had for the past couple of months remains. Cormac and Cornwall Council continue to work to explore all options around getting this objection removed, and the coast path re-opened.

Also around footpaths, I have had a number of people contact me about the unadopted footpath that runs from Foundry Drive to Church Lane - I am unsure of the history of this path, how long it has been there and if it predates the estate or not, but the concerns raised with me have been about the surfacing of it – is this something the Parish Council would be interested in supporting trying to get adopted as a Cormac maintained footpath in the future?

Last week I attended the first meeting around proposals for the St Austell Local Cycling & walking Infrastructure Plan.

Sustrans has been commissioned by Cornwall Council to deliver and produce a 'Local Walking and Cycling Infrastructure Plan (LCWIP)' for the St Austell area. The output from this project is to design a walking and cycling network for the area with recommendations for infrastructure improvements and a prioritised list of routes.

It is very early days but it is good to see that they are having these conversations now.

At Trenarren I have written to Cornwall Council supporting the request to consider The Ledrah for inclusion in the Council's List of Assets of Community Value.

Under the Localism Act 2011, town and parish councils and local voluntary and community organisations can nominate local land or buildings to be included in a 'list of assets of community value.' If the owner of a listed asset subsequently wishes to sell the asset, there will be a period of time during which the asset cannot be sold. This is intended to allow community groups the time to develop a proposal and raise the required capital to bid for the asset when it comes onto the open market at the end of that period.

For an asset to be listed the Council must consider either that (i) its main use contributes to the social wellbeing or cultural, recreational or sporting interests of the local community – and that it is realistic to think that this use will continue or (ii) where the main use does not currently have such a community benefit but in the

'recent past' it did have and the Council considers it likely that it would be able to have such a use in the next 5 years.

I agree with this bid and am happy to support it.

Last week I was also pleased to see that the Iron Age promontory fort at Black Head is one of a number of Scheduled Monuments across Cornwall that will benefit from Heritage Lottery funding to preserve these important sites.

The Monumental Improvement project, run by Cornwall Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB), has been awarded £489,700.

I am well aware of Black Head's importance in our local history, in its prominent position off the South West Coast Path. I was pleased to meet with the AONB Unit last year to discuss and support their proposals for this site. I am delighted to see this funding awarded and look forward to working with all involved to make sure this monumental and special feature of our Cornish coastline continues to be there for all to explore and enjoy.

Up at County Hall meanwhile I have seconded and been working on a motion for the protection and consideration of disturbance to Coastal and Marine Wildlife in Cornwall

We will be asking that Cornwall Council pledges to raise awareness of protection and consideration of disturbance to Coastal and Marine wildlife in Cornwall.

- By writing to those water sports National Governing Bodies who do not include awareness of protection of coastal and marine wildlife in their Training Syllabus and Training Manuals and requesting they include good practice in consideration for disturbance to Coastal and Marine Wildlife.
- By engaging with local water sports providers, particularly those who rent equipment from beach venues to request they include consideration of coastal and wildlife disturbance in their briefs to holidaymakers.
- By engaging with local pleasure boat drivers to ensure awareness of potential disturbance to coastal and marine wildlife.
- By posting information on social media to raise awareness locally.
- Looking into the possibility of providing posters on Council Harbours and beaches to educate sea and beach users in Cornwall to show consideration for disturbance to coastal and marine wildlife.

I look forward to seeing this motion start its journey through the council, as it will be one that will be really positive for our coastal environments and the ecosystems that exist there.