

Cornwall Councillor Report – November 2024 – St Austell Bay Parish

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

On Remembrance Sunday and Armistice Day it was an honour as ever to join our communities for services and acts of remembrance around our division. Taking part in these events really brings home the sacrifices made by the men and families of our parish in the two world wars, to conflicts as recently as Afghanistan, so that we can live in freedom today.

I have made further requests to Cormac about surfacing on Mill Lane - asking that they bring up the surface standard at the Charlestown end to the excellent standard of works they previously did at my request at the Porthpean Road end in 2021.

Cormac have also been out and cut around the Battery before 3 November in order to assist the Charlestown History Group ahead of their planned volunteer day.

I met with the Duporth Development CIC and Cornwall Council officers to try to progress some of the long running issues around this beautiful area where the original developer has yet to bring assets up to scratch and hand them over.

Subsequently I also attended Duporth Development CIC AGM, it's always good to support the hard working volunteer directors in their work.

On 26 November at Full Council I am seconding a motion that sets out:

1. To request that the Leader of the Council writes to the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs to outline the Council's dismay at the decision in the Budget to restrict Agricultural Property Relief and calls on the Government to stop the Family Farm Tax.
2. That the Cabinet Member for Environment and Climate Change engages with local farmers and community representatives to consider what support the Council can provide to support them.

While my division no longer has the very rural St Gorran Parish in it, there are still farms in every parish that I represent, as well as people who work in the many industries that support or are reliant on our local farms.

As a predominantly rural Duchy or county, with a greater percentage of small family owned farms than other rural areas, Cornwall does stand to be more harshly impacted by these proposals than other parts of the country, and with this in mind, it is only right that we are asking Cornwall Council to do what it can to both directly support our farmers in their time of need, as well as lobby the government with what I hope will be a unanimous voice to get these changes, which I am sure were not intentionally designed to inflict so much potential damage on family businesses, to be reviewed and reversed as soon as possible.

Finally I was quite surprised to realise that 6 November marked the tenth anniversary of my first election as Cornwall Councillor, way back in 2014, and thus the beginning of my 11th year in office.

It remains a great privilege to serve or to have served the people, businesses and communities in the parishes of Mevagissey, St Gorran, Pentewan Valley, St Austell Bay and Carlyon over the years.

As ever, should people wish to get in touch, they are very welcome to do so, via cllr.james.mustoe@cornwall.gov.uk or at 07885277670

