

## **Cornwall Councillor Report – St Austell Bay Parish – October 2023**

I hope you are all well as we continue through an October where the weather has been nicer than it was for most of August!

In a follow up to the information in my report from last month, the rollout of the new bins has now started in our area.

The local waste services manager gave a talk at our recent Community Area Partnership meeting on the changes, which was very helpful.

Although the bins are being rolled out now, the new service regime itself won't start until January 2024.

I have a meeting booked with Cabinet Member Richard Pears on 6 November regarding the Duporth etc Highways scheme.

I understand with the 2 long-awaited planning decisions on the applications in Charlestown, that these should be heard at the December Central Planning meeting.

In community work, Cllr Richard Pears and I took a hedge trimmer and cut back all the vegetation that was encroaching onto the Public Right of Way that runs down the side of Chandlers Walk. Thanks to all the residents who came out and helped with the subsequent clearance and disposal of the waste that was generated from this.

It was great to join the inspirational Rob Stevenson and team from Beach Guardian at a beach clean at Porthpean Beach on 16 September, along with Age UK.

Turning to the Shared Prosperity Fund, when the criteria for this was announced last year, it seemed a natural fit for Charlestown Harbour to apply for funding to help in the ongoing repairs that are crucial for this iconic site, from the Culture and Heritage-led Regeneration and Skills part of the fund

I was pleased to suggest this to Charlestown Harbour and then support their excellent bid throughout the process, particularly with the support and guidance of Cabinet Member Louis Gardner and Steve Double MP, and am delighted to see its success.

Charlestown Harbour is a key location for people from around St Austell and further afield and holds many memories for all of us, both in its industrial past, its role on screen in many films and tv shows, and many more personal experiences. For example my wife and I recently celebrated our tenth wedding anniversary, and we have wonderful memories of having our wedding photos taken on the current harbour gates. I look forward to seeing the gates replaced and the harbour preserved for ours and many more generations to come.

The SPF remains open for bids and I would encourage any local businesses or groups to apply for it via <https://ciosgoodgrowth.com/>

I understand that the Parish Council will be meeting with Cormac to hopefully progress the devolution of the Regatta Field – at the time of writing, this was scheduled for early November TBC.

Finally, on a Cornwall-wide matter I was delighted to see mine and Cllr Kate Ewert's Motion to Cornwall Council from back in May to make care experience a protected characteristic when it comes to Cornwall Council's decisions unanimously backed by Cornwall Council's Cabinet.

As Cornwall Councillors we are all corporate parents and are responsible for those young people currently in care in Cornwall, much as I once was in care before I was adopted many years ago.

Treating care experience as a protected characteristic will help to address inequalities faced by many people who have spent time in the care of a local authority - in Cornwall or elsewhere - as a child.

Evidence shows that people with care experience are more likely to experience issues with a large variety of areas including employability, health, and crime.

The Cabinet's vote puts care experience at the heart of the council's decision-making process and that the council will build on the good work it already does in this area and will improve the lives of people with care experience in Cornwall, now and in the future.

Thank you too all the councillors and council staff, as well as Cornish charity Carefree, for their hard work in helping us make the case and getting the right result on this really important matter.

As ever, should people need my assistance with anything, please contact me on 07885 277670 or at [cllr.james.mustoe@cornwall.gov.uk](mailto:cllr.james.mustoe@cornwall.gov.uk)