

Cornwall Councillor Report – St Austell Bay Parish - September 2022

I couldn't start my report with commenting on the sad passing of our Queen, Elizabeth II, on September 8th.

As Cornwall Councillor I was honoured to sign the County Book of Condolence at County Hall, and attend the County Accession Ceremony and Remembrance Service, both held at Truro Cathedral, on behalf of the St Austell and Mevagissey Division.

Thank you for service Ma'am and long live the King!

Frustratingly, you might have heard that I suffered an accident in August, and was subsequently confined to quarters for nearly a whole month afterwards. While I am, now on the mend, I am not 100% so please do bear with me if I have not been as physically active as I normally like to be.

Although I have not been able to get out and see the works for myself, it has been encouraging to see that the immediate stretches of coast path linking Charlestown to Carlyon Bay and Charlestown to the Battery were reopened promptly and on time by Cormac on 29th July. This brings public access back to the impressive and historic Battery site and I look forward to seeing the works here continue to progress as the year goes on. Cormac also kindly committed to clearing a couple of trees and replacing some broken fence in this area which is really helpful.

I have also had positive feedback from properties along the way of the next stretch of coastpath that is currently being worked on, with Cormac again working throughout August to make progress with this, and I hope the full reopening of this stretch of coast path will take place in October. Thanks as ever to the patience of all involved, but at least the work is now underway!

Cormac last week told me that the roll back is going very well and on track to complete within four weeks. They need dry weather to carry out the works, for good ground conditions and the nature of the site, but in general all is going well and the residents of Duporth Bay have been extremely accommodating.

I attended the Annual General Meeting of the Duporth Development Community Interest Company in my role on behalf of Cornwall Council as a director of the CIC. The CIC and estate in general are very grateful for the kind donation of the Jubilee Bench on the estate from the parish council, which has now been installed.

In more positive news, the Shared Prosperity Fund (SPF) is now open for bids. I have circulated an email with details on how to apply to parish clerks in my area and would advise councillors to share with any local businesses or groups who may be interested. Parish Councils can also apply themselves. The link to it is below:

https://www.cornwall.gov.uk/council-news/council-budgets-and-economy/bids-invited-from-organisations-which-can-drive-good-growth-for-cornwall-and-the-isles-of-scil/?fbclid=IwAR1vRp-5zNwcQj8fF4q0PW_SdpwjNnSDzjdJ63Qc11N_GUtaUonrGSOAaQ

I met with Cllr Louis Gardner, who is the Cabinet Member on Cornwall Council responsible for Economic Growth and is leading on the SPF.

It was good to hear from Louis that Cornwall Council are doing all they can to make the fund as accessible as possible. and that council officers will see which part of the fund is most appropriate and allocate it accordingly, once applications are made.

Last weekend I helped organise a beach clean at Porthpean Beach along with Final Straw Cornwall and Beach Guardian as part of the Age UK Go for Gold series. Thank you to everyone who came along and took part.

I have been working with Cornwall Council on their new expanded e-bike hire scheme, which is due to come to the St Austell area in October

- Beryl Bikes will be operating the e-bike hire scheme.
- The scheme will be operational in Penzance, Newquay, Truro, St Austell and Falmouth/Penryn areas
- Funding for the scheme is from Carbon Neutral Cornwall and additional Department for Transport funding.
- Each town will have 50 e-bikes for hire via an app (or phone) and there will be 20 bays across each town where bikes can be hired from and dropped off. Users can leave bikes at different locations to the one they hired from.
- Bays will be painted on the ground with no charging infrastructure on site as batteries will be charged remotely and replaced by local teams, who will also redistribute the bikes according to demand. The bays are geo-fenced so users have to drop their bike back in a bay or incur a penalty fee. This light touch infrastructure makes the scheme highly flexible in terms of changing locations of bays or adding in new ones.

A provisional list of sites for bays, which will be reduced to initially around 20, was unveiled at the Community Network Panel meeting last week. In Carlyon Parish there is due to be a bay located in Charlestown.

Every three years Cornwall Council consults on the Public Space Protection Order (PSPO) which is in place to balance the needs of dog owners and others who enjoy the 43 beaches across Cornwall that are subject to seasonal restrictions on dogs.

The consultation on how the PSPOs should look from April 2023 runs from 5 September for 12 weeks.

The current PSPO, which runs until April 2023, was put in place after extensive consultation in 2019.

Currently dogs are not allowed on specific beaches, including Porthpean Beach, between 10am and 6pm from 1 July to 31 August.

The Parish Council may wish to respond to this consultation, which is also open to everyone. More details via the link below:

<https://letstalk.cornwall.gov.uk/dogsonbeaches2022>

Meanwhile up at County Hall I led a cross party motion to get Cornwall Council to back the National Farmers Union's petition to the Government to ban the sale and use of sky lanterns.

I originally led the campaign for Cornwall Council to ban the use of these things from council land and from events with licenses back in 2015, and was pleased to see the council unanimously vote for my motion last week, which also included approval for an online safety awareness campaign from the council to highlight how dangerous these things are.