

Cornwall Councillor Report October 2025 – St Austell Bay Parish Council

I hope you are all well as we move forward through October.

At the time of writing (10th October), my inbox as far as Mevagissey Parish goes has been dominated by issues relating to the roadworks which have seemingly sprung up around the edge of the Parish, causing a lot of annoyance and delays with traffic.

The issue with roadworks is that Cornwall has a seasonal embargo on them over the summer months. This in turn leads to the utility companies who are responsible for a lot of the roadworks, and Cormac, who are responsible for resurfacing and the general maintenance of the highway network, to seemingly cram everything in as soon as the tourists go home.

The roadworks along Cromwell Road in particular, which are forecast to run 12 weeks from October to December and are the responsibility of Wales and West Utilities, are a real headache for commuters and for Penrice School in particular.

On the positive side, highways inspectors have been very quick to come out and read the riot act to culprits when I report that roadworks are being poorly managed and have committed to regular visits to ensure they comply going forward.

I also witnessed a really nasty accident at the Duporth crossroads a couple of weeks ago, which really reinforces my case for moving the national speed limit back from just outside the hospital entrance back past Porthpean Beach Road, which I hope will be considered when the next round of Community Area Partnership Highways Funding becomes available.

I have been supporting residents in Fettling Lane after a sinkhole opened up in a private parking area located just off the road. I have been in liaison with the estate management company and our Member of Parliament in order to ensure residents concerns are highlighted and action taken. The estate management company's latest update as of 10 October is as follows:

'Following your correspondence, I would like to clarify the current position and actions taken to date:

- *On Monday, 6th October, the Property Manager and Associate Director visited the development following reports of ground movement in the car park. During their inspection, visible subsidence and a hole were identified.*
- *On Tuesday 7th October, Heras fencing was installed to fully restrict access to the car park and ensure safety. The fencing installed complimented barriers that were already in place.*

- *On the same day, we issued a development-wide update to all residents and hand-delivered letters to those properties directly affected, providing safety guidance and confirming the next steps.*
- *The property manager has been on hand daily to address residents' concerns.*
- *The car park remains cordoned off and is not to be accessed under any circumstances until it is confirmed safe to do so.*

Investigations and External Consultations

To date, the following steps and checks have been completed:

- **South West Water** have confirmed that no mains water or adopted drainage infrastructure runs beneath the affected area. Dawn told you that South West Water were reluctant to share any information due to GDPR concerns. However, they have since provided clarification.
- **Network Rail** have assessed the car park and confirmed they have no concerns regarding any impact on their network or structures.
- **GTC** have confirmed after attending site that no gas infrastructure is located beneath or adjacent to the car park.
- The **UK Health Security Agency** have advised that, as the car park is an open area, there are no concerns regarding radon gas, even if present.
- The **Insurance Assessor** attended site on 8th October to initiate the claims process.
- **Structural engineers and geological surveyors** have been formally instructed to undertake a detailed investigation into the cause of the ground movement. We are currently awaiting confirmation of their attendance date, which we expect to receive imminently.

While the information we have at hand indicates there are no mines in the immediate vicinity, we are, of course, fully aware of the area's mining history. To ensure that all possible factors are considered, we have contacted the original developer to request comprehensive drainage plans and copies of the mine survey data held for the site. This information will be shared with the appointed engineers to support their assessment.

We fully recognise the anxiety this situation is causing, particularly given the proximity of the affected area to your property. Please be assured that the site continues to be closely monitored, and all available resources are being used to progress the investigation as quickly and safely as possible. To that end, we are holding daily update meetings with representatives from the local FirstPort operations team and the national Safety Assurance team. These meetings are chaired by the FirstPort Southwest

Operations Director. We have also arranged to meet with the director of Foundry Parc Amenity Areas Management Company Limited who are the landowner and our client.

We will issue a further update once the surveyors have attended site and we have received their initial findings. In the meantime, if you feel unsafe in your home or have any immediate concerns, please contact us directly so that we can provide support and advice.'

Last week I was delighted to Delighted to meet with Mrs Lee Elkins at Charlestown School for a tour of the school prior to my start as a governor.

I've always worked closely with the schools in my patch and have been impressed by the warm and nurturing environment at Charlestown School in my visits since I became councillor for the area in 2021.

I particularly love their focus on reading, having grown up living above a bookshop, and this was very much in evidence during my visit today. One of the best things we can do for our young people is instil a life-long love of reading!

I look forward to continuing to work with all at Charlestown School into the future.

At the most recent Full Council I was pleased to see my motion called 'Keep Cornwall Clean!' voted on and passed almost unanimously by my fellow councillors.

My plan is to work with the council and partners to better promote and highlight the resources available for community litter picking and beach cleaning, in order to establish a joined up network of groups, such as the ones I already work with in my division, across Cornwall.

Now the real hard work starts and I look forward to working with all concerned to put these plans into action!

You can see the full text and detail of the motion via the link [here](#)

Finally, although it isn't in the Mevagissey and St Austell Bay division, the Pentewan Roundabout in St Austell is a very important piece of transport infrastructure that I am regularly asked about.

My own view is that the whole area needs to be completely upgraded as the double roundabout and associated infrastructure that we have there is no longer fit for purpose and has not been since at least 2015. However this will need a significant multi-million pound investment, which I know from previous work would have to be secured from the Department for Transport.

However, any improvements to this dangerous bit of road are a good thing, and I am pleased to see Cornwall Council coming forward with these proposals, which are being

consulted on from today under the scheme name 'A390 Penwinnick Local Safety Improvements Scheme'.

I encourage anyone who is interested to have your say. Full details of the proposals can be seen on the LetsTalk website, which is available via the following link:

<https://letstalk.cornwall.gov.uk/hub-page/transport>

As ever, should people require my assistance on any matter, please get in touch on 07885 277670 or at cllr.james.mustoe@cornwall.gov.uk