Cornwall Councillor Report – St Austell Bay Parish Council – November 2026

I hope everyone is well as we go through November.

Before I start my report, I wanted to pay tribute to Cllr and Dr Bill Leach.

Bill was a great Chairman and Parish Councillor in general. A wise and pragmatic man who served the residents of St Austell Bay since the council's formation in 2009, I could always rely on him for sound advice and local knowledge that was second to none. Bill and his wife Sue were a formidable and devoted couple, who were also always good for a cup of tea or a glass of water and a chat when I was out and about delivering up and down the long drives of Duporth Bay, where he was also the longstanding Chairman of their residents association.

But Bill's legacy was far greater than 'just' that. He was an excellent and incredibly well thought of Head Teacher too with a career spanning decades. In fact there were many times when I have been out canvassing all around the St Austell and Newquay constituency and met people who were taught by Bill and remembered him with great fondness, encounters which I would inevitably pass back to Bill and he would always remember his former students, every last one.

Bill led a long, rich and fulfilling life with many, many years of service to the people of this part of Cornwall, my own life has been richer for having known him.

My thoughts are with Sue and their wider family at this difficult time.

RIP Sir.

It was an honour to join communities around my division to mark Remembrance Sunday and Armistice Day Acts of Remembrance.

Services such as this, as repeated across Cornwall and around the country are an important and integral part of our community's life – as challenging as our democratic governance can sometimes seem, these are hard won freedoms that young men in generations past, in the First and Second World Wars, right up to more recent conflicts such as Iraq and Afghanistan, fought and made the ultimate sacrifice so that we might live free today.

Taking part in these events and honouring the fallen has always been something I have been proud and honoured to do in my role as local councillor. When I was first elected, on 6th November 2014, the Remembrance events were the first things I did in my new role, taking place literally three days after my election. And looking back, as I now enter my 13th year as Cornwall Councillor, these events have become all the more poignant for me as the years go on, particularly as many of the veterans who used to mark them are no longer with us.

With international events as they are at the moment, it has never been more important to think of the past sacrifices made, and the saying ‘Lest we Forget’ is more relevant than ever.

Thanks so much to everyone who came out on 7th November to spend three hours cleaning, sanding and painting the fence at the bottom of Duporth Road/Brick Hill, which has looked mucky for ages and now looks much better.

We didn't finish the stream side on the first day as we ran out of paint, but the Regatta Committee have helpfully donated some more and as of the time of writing we are hoping to go back on Saturday 14th, weather depending, and finish it off.

Based on the success of this, I would also like to propose setting up an informal group in the St Austell Bay Parish, similar to the one I look after in Mevagissey, to do community work like this in the future. I can sort insurance and supplies etc via Cormac – hopefully it might operate a little similar to the previous Diggers and Do’ers group.

I have been given an update on the Community Highway Improvement Programme schemes, which are run by the Community Area Partnership.

They say that the traffic regulation order elements of the scheme, of which there is one on Porthpean Road, are due to have their design finalised in November-December, go to consultation in February and be completed in the first quarter of the 27/28 financial year.

I am pleased to see that Cornwall Council has increased the maximum fine for fly-tipping from £1,000 to £5,000 and is using covert cameras to help identify offenders. The council's Community Protection Team also has powers to seize vehicles believed to have been used for fly-tipping.

You can report fly-tipping issues via the council’s website here

Cornwall Council will be offering free parking across all Council pay-and-display car parks on Saturday 5th December 2026, in support of Small Business Saturday.

Truro’s Park & Ride service will be free on the same day, allowing visitors to take advantage of both offers.

The initiative is intended to encourage residents and visitors to support our local high streets, independent retailers and businesses in the run-up to Christmas.

Parking will be free for the day, although motorists should be aware that any payments made in error will not be refunded.

As ever, should people need my assistance with anything, please do get in touch and I will be happy to help - you can get hold of me on 07885 277670 or at cllr.james.mustoe@cornwall.gov.uk