

Cornwall Council report

Cllr Dick Cole

Time period: 29th April – 26th May 2024

1.0 Council and other meetings

Over the last month, physical meetings at Cornwall Council have included Full Council, and the Children and Families Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

I have also attended a range of online Cornwall Council meetings via Teams video-conferencing. These have included a briefing in advance of the last Full Council meeting, Group Leaders meeting, the Cornish National Minority Working Group (and associated preparatory meeting), a meeting about a White Paper seeking greater devolution for Cornwall and a meeting for councillors from the China Clay Area.

Other physical meetings have included St Dennis Parish Council, St Ender Parish Council (2), St Dennis and Nanpean Community Trust, ClayTAWC (2) and Indian Queens Preaching Pit.

In addition, I have had informal meetings with a wide range of groups and individuals.

2.0 20mph speed limits

The consultation on the proposal for 20mph speed limits in towns and villages across the China Clay Area closed on 13th May. I had got the consultation period extended from Friday 10th May to the following Monday. Information about the feedback is yet to be published.

3.0 Full Council

Two motions were discussed and agreed at Full Council on 21st May. These covered concerns about proposed changes to Universal Credit and PIPs (Personal Independence Payments) and the need to treat mental illness on more of a par with physical illness; plus the need to end subsidies for holiday homes.

4.0 Renewable energy

On 14th May, I had a meeting with representatives of Celtic Sea Power, a company which is leading on a project relating to the off-shore generation of energy that may link into the Indian Queens Power Station.

While it will be a number of years before we know if their plans will succeed, they have agreed to update people at a future meeting of the China Clay Area and Luxulyan Community Area Partnership.

5.0 "Report it"

Over the last month, I have reported a high number of local issues of concern to residents. This has included flooding, blocked drains, potholes and overgrown verges. If you spot a similar problem, you can also report it through Cornwall Council's website at: <https://www.cornwall.gov.uk/report-something/>

ST DENNIS PARISH

6.0 St Dennis Neighbourhood Plan

In my last report, I noted that we would soon be commencing work on a new document, setting out the "direction of travel" for the Plan, which will then form the basis of the next consultation. I had said that this document would be considered at our next meeting at the end of May. That meeting will now take place in mid-June.

7.0 Signs

On 7th May, I presented a report to the meeting of St Dennis Parish Council about "Welcome to St Dennis Parish" signs at various points into the Parish, as well as village signs in places like Enniscaven and Gothers. I am pleased that councillors supported the principle of the proposal and I will be making initial enquiries with Cormac about how to proceed at a meeting on 29th May.

8.0 Traffic matters

I am pleased that the Parish Council is progressing with the purchase of mobile speed visors, which can be placed on poles at various locations around the village to encourage people to drive safely with speed limits.

Also at the Parish Council meeting on 7th May, parish councillors discussed a range of issues with traffic congestion, traffic speed, parking and related matters within the heart of the village. The possibility of a one-way system along some roads was suggested.

In partnership with the Parish Council, I have approached Cornwall Council and requested that a detailed assessment is undertaken for the traffic problems in St Dennis. The Parish Council will also be able to forward the responses that it previously had through our Neighbourhood Plan consultation.

9.0 Cornish Lithium

I attended the first Community Liaison Group at Trelavour on 2nd May.

10.0 Hendra Prazey

On 2nd May, I had an update from planning officers about the proposal for housing on land at Hendra Prazey. It is likely that this will soon be recommended for approval and I have told planning officers that, if this is the case, I want it referred to the Central Sub-Area Planning Committee for decision.

11.0 ClayTAWC

The purchase of the Old School Building by the ClayTAWC organisation of which I am chair is ongoing. It is taking longer than I had hoped but I believe our solicitors have done most of their work and I anticipate the sale to go through in the relatively near future.

The Board is also starting to think about the organisation of a community day to mark both 25 years of ClayTAWC and the new chapter that will commence once we are owners of the building.

ST ENODER PARISH

12.0 Various roadworks in St Enoder Parish

In recent weeks, there have been a lot of trenching along roads and pavements in various parts of the Parish, relating to cabling for internet services and electrical cabling to the bus depot in St Austell Street, Summercourt.

I have made representations to Cormac about the monitoring of the works and I was disturbed to hear that, on Friday 24th May, the temporary traffic lights at Summercourt crossroads were removed by contractors without informing Cornwall Council that the proper traffic lights needed to be switched back on. I am grateful to the Parish Clerk and others for acting promptly to get this sorted. I have made further representations on this following the incident on Friday.

13.0 Traffic matters

I continue to follow-up on a range of highway concerns and plan a more comprehensive update next month.

Residents will be aware that the Parish Council has placed its speed visors on various streetlights in recent years. I have recently secured agreement that an additional five posts will be erected, where we do not have streetlights in an appropriate location. However, I have been told that Cornwall Council will no longer allow speed visors to be placed on streetlights and I am therefore in the process of requesting additional poles at a meeting with Cormac on 29th May.

14.0 Indian Queens Industrial Estate

Last year, planning permission was secured for the extension of Unit 2 on the industrial estate. This followed failed applications for other proposals in this area, which included a new access of Moorland Road that was opposed by local residents.

On Friday 24th May, I was surprised to see a new entrance had been cut through the hedge into the rear of the plot. I have since found that Cornwall Council streetworks had given consent for a temporary entrance for the delivery of some of the framework for the build. Given the previous discussions about the nature of development on this site, I was somewhat annoyed.

The agent for the developers also has yet to lodge their landscaping plan for the project, and I have made it clear to them that I expect substantial screening to make up for the established copse of trees and shrubs that had been removed prior to the submission of the various planning applications.

15.0 Fraddon Millennium Green

I have previously reported about my successful bid for the Trust for Community Infrastructure Levy funding to place a new piece of equipment in the park and to redo the safety surfacing. I can confirm that the equipment has been officially ordered and we will soon be looking to start enhancement works (eg. repainting existing equipment). We let people know when it is happening so that anyone wishing to volunteer can help out.

16.0 Thomas Playing Field, Summercourt

As reported last month, the company that installed the play equipment has confirmed that it will be revisiting the site to carry out significant repair / replacement works in the near future. We hope to have a date for these works quite soon.

17.0 Newsletter

During April and May, I have been distributing a newsletter around St Enoder Parish. Thanks to everyone who helped with this. I have not got everywhere but, at the time of writing, I estimate I have covered over 98% of the Parish.

SUPPORT FOR LOCAL FAMILIES

18.0 Advice

In addition, I have assisted numerous households and individuals with guidance and advice on a range of topics.