

Cornwall Council report

Cllr Dick Cole

Time period: 21st January – 24th February 2019

Listed below are some examples of the work that I have undertaken during the last month.

1. Council meetings and related activities

I attended a number of formal meetings at Cornwall Council, which included Full Council, Electoral Review Panel (plus two meetings with officers about the Community Governance Review for local Parish Councils), workshop from Constitution and Governance Committee about the future structure of planning committees on the unitary authority, Informal Investment Programme Panel, China Clay Area Network, working group on national minority status (and two follow-up meetings), and a meeting of the Incinerator Liaison Group.

In relation to the Community Governance Review, as vice-chairman of the Electoral Review Panel, I attended the Cornwall Association of Local Councils Conference at New County Hall on 16th February.

In the same period, I attended a significant number of informal meetings with council officers and others, some of which related to planning matters. In addition, I attended three meetings of St Enoder Parish Council.

2. Other meetings and activities

I also attended meetings of ClayTAWC – Clay Area Training Work Centre (chairman), the Community-led Local Development Local Action Group for South and East Cornwall (vice-chairman) and Indian Queens Pit (trustee).

3. Newsletter

A key priority for me in recent weeks has been the distribution of the latest edition of my parish newsletter (which I bring out every six months or so). The weather made it quite a struggle to get around and I would like to thank everyone who helped.

Content included information about the Neighbourhood Plan consultation, and I am pleased we covered over 95% of the Parish. A number of issues have been raised with me that I am now following up.

4. Neighbourhood Plan

In my last monthly report, I wrote about the importance of the consultation into the “pre-submission” draft of the Neighbourhood Plan for St Enoder Parish.

The six week consultation ended on Monday 18th February and the Parish Council has received a number of representations, which we will be reviewing the comments in the next few weeks.

5. Thomas Playing Field

It has taken quite some time, but the installation of the new play equipment in the Thomas Playing Field at Summercourt has been completed and pupils from Summercourt Primary School (represented by the school council) performed the official opening on 14th February.

6. Traffic issues

In my last report, I stated that it was my hope to give a more detailed update on the range of key traffic matters, this month. I am presently still arranging one of my regular meetings with Cormac and I will ensure that there is a comprehensive update for the Parish Council's meeting in March.

7. Police cover in St Enoder Parish

It is now well known that one of the local PCSOs, who spent a lot of time in our Parish, has moved to a different area and her position will not be back-filled.

The Parish Council has received correspondence from Inspector David Meredith "will not be replaced." He added that: "I fully appreciate your concerns over the reduction of officers in your area, however due to budget cuts there has been a reduction in PCSO's force wide" and, in addition to the existing two officers at St Columb station, our area "will still of course be covered by Patrol officers from Newquay station

I am very worried that we will, in future, receive less police coverage and I have written to Inspector Meredith setting out my concerns. It would certainly be good if he was willing to come to a future meeting of the Parish Council to discuss this matter.

8. Parking

I have reported previously that I attend the regular meetings about parking at Cornwall Council and have made the case for double yellow lines in rural areas to be repainted. In addition, I can report that, at the most recent meeting of the China Clay Area Network, we made another formal representation for the unitary authority to get on with this work as a matter of urgency.

9. Informal Investment Programme Panel

I have been nominated to sit on his Panel, which will be given the opportunity to make comment on potential investment proposals. It will not have any decision-making powers. I am somewhat uncomfortable with this, as the unitary authority is planning for the investments to (eventually) generate an income to off-set cuts in funding for the Council

from central government – rather than prioritising investment in high levels of affordable housing, for example.

10. Community Chest

In terms of the allocation of my Community Chest funding, I have agreed to grant £878 to the Summercourt Garden Club for their work with Summercourt Primary School and £800 towards to the Indian Queens and district carnival. In addition, I will be purchasing a handcart through St Ender Parish Council, that local volunteers will be able to use when carrying out litter picks.

11. Extension to Indian Queens Cemetery

With the Clerk, Amanda Kendall, I have started work on the planning application for the extension to the cemetery at Indian Queens. This is will be a priority for me in the next couple of weeks.

12. Inquiries

During the last month, I have also helped numerous people with guidance on a range of issues.