

Cornwall Council report

Cllr Dick Cole

Time period: 23rd May – 24th June 2022

1.0 Council and other meetings

In terms of physical meetings of Cornwall Council during the last month, I attended Full Council, Economic Growth and Development Overview and Scrutiny Committee, Customer and Support Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee (CASSOSC), the final meeting of the Inquiry into Equality and Diversity Indicators (for which I was lead member) through CASSOSC, and the China Clay Area Community Network Panel.

Other meetings of the unitary authority via TEAMS or ZOOM video-conferencing included Cabinet and a meeting to evaluate the Local Listing project for the China Clay Area. In terms of my role as the Chairman of the Cornish National Minority Working Group, I gave evidence to a Council of Europe Committee relating to the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities, hosted a meeting of the Working Group and took part in a session investigating the collection of data about Cornish people.

In addition, I have attended one meeting of St Dennis Parish Council and three meetings of St Enoder Parish Council.

2.0 China Clay Area Community Network

I was pleased to be re-elected Chairman of the China Clay Area Community Network Panel at a meeting on 13th June.

As previously reported, the administration at Cornwall Council wishes to reduce the number of Community Network Panels from 19 to 10.

The proposal would link Clay Country with the Bodmin Network (which includes rural parishes stretching almost as far east as Altarnun). At this most recent meeting, the participants were unanimously against the change and I made a further representation to relevant officers.

3.0 Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Strategy

Over the last few months, I chaired an Inquiry into Equality and Diversity Indicators through the Customer and Support Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

I am pleased that this work has fed through into the Council's Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Strategy 2022-2026. A consultation on the document has been launched on the Let's Talk part of the Council's website and lasts until 14th September.

ST DENNIS PARISH ISSUES

4.0 Social / affordable rent properties in St Dennis

As reported in my last monthly report, Coastline Housing and Sanctuary Housing have acknowledged that they had made mistakes about the provision of affordable housing to local people and have agreed that future lettings on their Wesley Place and Hendra Heights estates respectively will in future be advertised for households with a parish connection to St Dennis.

I am pleased that Sanctuary's most recent re-let at Hendra Heights was advertised for local families, which shows that the new arrangements are now functioning.

I am also optimistic that Ocean Housing will agree that a "local connection" label can be applied to their older housing stock (that have no nomination agreements or other restrictions on local connection) for a period to boost the chances of households from St Dennis securing affordable housing. A meeting has been held but an accommodation has yet to be reached, because Cornwall Council has been slow drafting an agreement. It is worth noting that, because of the delay, three Ocean properties have been advertised during the last two months and not with any "local connection" label.

5.0 Road safety matters

5.1 Double yellow lines at Wesley Place

Following the re-consultation into the proposal for double yellow lines near Wesley Place, a number of responses were received. These were quite varied. Cornwall Council chose to modify the proposal and reduce the extent of double yellow lines. The lines have installed, and I asked Cornwall Council to inform nearby local residents about their decision in advance of the works.

5.2 Speed readings

At the request of St Dennis Parish Council and I, Cornwall Council has carried out speed readings at a number of locations in St Dennis. These include:

- West of St Dennis School (20mph limit). The average speed (south-west bound) was 19.1mph, with 66.7% of vehicles within the speed limit. The average speed (north-east bound) was 21.7mph, with only 36.7% of vehicles within the speed limit.
- Fore Street near junction with Parc-an-Bre Drive / Hendra Heights (30mph limit). The average speed (south-west bound) was 23.4mph, with 94.2% of vehicles within the speed limit. The average speed (north-east bound) was 21.9mph, with 92.2% of vehicles within the speed limit.
- Hall Road (20mph limit). The average speed (south-east bound) was 21.1mph, with 44.2% of vehicles within the speed limit. The average speed (north-west bound) was 23.5mph, with only 24.9% of vehicles

within the speed limit.

- Trelavour Road (30mph limit). The average speed (south-east bound) was 24.0mph, with 81.2% of vehicles within the speed limit. The average speed (north-west bound) was 25.8mph, with 76.3% of vehicles within the speed limit.

I can supply copies of the above reports to local residents on request.

5.3 Meeting with Cormac representative

In early June, I had a TEAMS meeting with the local Highway & Environment Manager for our area. A large number of topics were covered. These included:

- The condition of double yellow lines and other road markings within St Dennis. It has been agreed that a review be carried out.
- Potholes in a range of locations, including the poor condition of sections of roads and pavements along Hall Road. I was informed that Hall Road is on the surface treatment list for the next financial year.
- Request for a bollard at Little Trerice, where vehicles mounting the pavement have damaged a manhole cover. This has been agreed for installation.

6.0 Planning

Planning applications in St Dennis Parish include the below two which may be of interest to residents

6.1 Proposed housing development at Hendra Prazey (PA20/11311)

An application for 27 housing units (of which 23 would be affordable) was submitted in December 2020. There have been a number of objections from local residents (because of the location and road network) and consideration of the application has been slow because Cornwall Council officers have been concerned about the road layout in the area.

The applicant has prepared further information about highway issues, which has been submitted to the unitary authority. The Parish Council and others will now have the opportunity to make further comment.

6.2 Proposed dwelling off Hendra Road (PA22/02138)

St Dennis Parish Council has objected to a dwelling on land associated with Hendra Heights, but which would be accessed from Hendra Road. I have raised these local concerns and I will report back when I have more information.

ST ENODER PARISH ISSUES

7.0 Road safety matters

7.1 Double yellow lines at Penhale

Cornwall Council commenced the installation of double yellow lines at Penhale, near the Kingsley Village complex, on 14th June. I am extremely disappointed that the works have not been completed, as the contractors did not attempt to get the parked cars on the northern side of the road moved away in advance of works. In addition, the extent of lines on the southern side of the road is greater than agreed and a section of the lining will have to be taken up.

A number of the cars parking on the road in this area have been workers at Marks and Spencers, because they have not been allowed to use the parking area associated with the shopping complex. But I am pleased to be able to report that the ownership of Kingsley Village has changed hands and the management company tasked with overseeing the site has confirmed that staff will in future be allowed to use the main car park.

7.2 Road safety audit of road through Fraddon and St Columb Road

I have just been supplied with a draft road safety audit for the stretch of road extending Penhale to the Halloon roundabout (including the area around the Co-op), and I will soon be having a meeting to discuss the provisional findings. It is my intention to work with council officers to publicise the report and recommendations as soon as it is finalised.

7.3 Meeting with Cormac representative

In early June, I had a TEAMS meeting with the local Highway & Environment Manager for our area. A large number of topics were covered. These included:

- Non-maintenance of garden and grassed area in Clodan Mews. I have been promised that the grass will be cut and the area tidied up.
- Over-grown hedges in a number of places, which are impacting on street furniture. These are being reviewed and various property owners approached.
- Lack of progress with surface repair in Pocohontas Crescent, Indian Queens. This is currently "on the list for this year, but with no programmed date." I am pushing for this to be prioritised.
- Request for junction lining at Pit Lane / Higher Fraddon junction. This will be done this year.
- Concern that faded bus bays need repainting. This is being looked into.
- Potholes around the St Enoder / bridge over A30 to Summercourt area. This is also being reviewed.

In addition, we discussed complaints about speeding traffic and related issues along Moorland Road, Indian Queens, Toldish and Ruthvoes, which I am following up.

8.0 Planning

There continues to be a significant number of ongoing planning matters in St Enoder Parish. Listed below are some which may be of particular interest.

8.1 Six extra gypsy / traveller pitches at Toldish (PA20/03553)

On 28th August 2020, Cornwall Council refused planning permission for six additional gypsy / traveller pitches at Little Meadows, Toldish. The applicant has appealed the decision to the UK Government's Planning Inspectorate. I have produced a representation on behalf of the Parish Council, which has been submitted to the Planning Inspectorate.

8.2 Applications at Carvynick, including leisure / office building (PA22/04257)

On 3rd June 2019, the owners of Carvynick near Summercourt secured an outline planning permission for 38 residential dwellings at the site, plus a leisure / office building (PA18/04360). I did not support the application as I did not think that residential dwellings in this location would be appropriate. The consent was not achieved through Cornwall Council, but the Government's Planning Inspectorate on the basis that the holiday park was "brown-field" / "previously developed land."

The applicants argued that the site would be both for holiday and residential uses, and the indicative layout with the original application showed 38 simple holiday-type lodges and an impressive leisure / office building (including a swimming pool). Indeed, they argued that the residential element of the scheme was necessary to justify investment in facilities at the site (most especially the leisure building).

Reserved matters for the details of the 38 dwellings have been submitted and agreed. These houses are larger than the lodges on the original plan, while being less dispersed across the site. Further applications have been submitted and accepted for another 16 houses on some of the remaining land within the main complex, which the Council could not refuse as the principle of development had been established through the appeal.

Linked to the PA18/04360 consent, the owner has therefore now achieved planning consent for 54 housing units. There will be no affordable housing on site, but the applicant has negotiated to pay off-site contributions to provide affordable housing elsewhere.

There was a fair amount of local support for the original application, because it included a leisure building that residents of the Parish could use. Letters of support prepared by the applicant and signed by local people stated that the leisure building would "provide a community hub," a "state-of-the-art

gymnasium" and a "swimming pool for locals to not only exercise but also to learn how to swim."

The reserved matters application for the leisure / office building (PA22/04257) has now been submitted. The proposed building is now much smaller than that on the original plan. It appears to be based around a badminton court and a small gym, that is of a size little more than two car parking spaces. There is no swimming pool as promised. St Enoder Parish has unanimously objected to the application, not least because it is not what was promised by the applicant.

There is a further application for another ten houses at Carvynick (PA22/04474), some of which would extend development into the open countryside. St Enoder Parish Council has unanimously objected to this application as well.

In addition, the owners of Carvynick have submitted a further outline application for "upto 40 tourism lodges" in the field on the eastern side of Carvynick. The Parish Council has not objected to this proposal, but sought confirmation that it be properly controlled as a tourism site and is not allowed to become a residential site.

9.0 Newsletter

The last few weeks have been extremely busy and I have not yet had chance to draft my newsletter for distribution around St Enoder Parish. Given my commitments, I am now hoping to be out and about with a newsletter in July and August.

HELPING LOCAL FAMILIES

10.0 Advice

Over the last few weeks, I have also assisted numerous households and individuals with guidance and advice on a range of topics including planning, housing matters, social care, environmental issues and more.