

Cornwall Council report

Cllr Dick Cole

Time period: 1st – 26th November 2023.

1.0 Council and other meetings

Over the last month, I have attended a range of Cornwall Council meetings. These include the Cabinet and Economic Growth and Development Overview and Scrutiny Committee (which I attended to make representations about the Homechoice Review), Constitution and Governance Committee, a meeting to update last year's Equality, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) Strategy, and a meeting about highway matters with the local Cormac officer.

I have attended a range of online meetings via Teams / Zoom video-conferencing. These have included sessions with the link officer for the China Clay Area and Luxulyan Community Area Partnership (3), a get-together for councillors from the China Clay Area and Luxulyan CAP, a pre-agenda session for the national minority working group, briefings on Good Growth and People Hubs, the Mid Cornwall Metro project, the "level 2 devolution deal" (2), group leaders and a training / development session with councillors and senior leadership team from the unitary authority.

Other meetings have included St Dennis Parish Council, St Enoder Parish Council, ClayTAWC and the St Dennis and Nanpean Community Trust.

CORNWALL COUNCIL

2.0 Homechoice

Further to last month's update on the Homechoice Review, I attended the Cabinet meeting on 8th November. As a consequence of my representations, they agreed to a further two-week consultation (which closed on Friday 24th November). I have submitted two further representations in my own name and assisted both St Dennis and St Enoder Parish Councils with their submissions.

A meeting has been arranged for me on Thursday 30th November to meet with the portfolio holder for housing, senior officers and the chairman and vice-chairman of the Economic Growth and Development Overview and Scrutiny Committee to discuss my concerns further.

3.0 "Level 2 devolution deal"

The latest "devolution deal" was published by the UK Government on 22nd November. Overall, it is extremely under-whelming and does not include the transfer of far-reaching powers from Westminster to Cornwall as has happened in Wales and Scotland since 1999. The deal is simply a range of accommodations between central government and Cornwall's unitary authority.

The key headlines are local control over the existing Adult Education Budget and £500,000 for Cornish culture and the Cornish language. The deal will be reviewed by the Customers and Support Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee on Monday (27th November) and I anticipate it will be endorsed at a meeting of the Cabinet on Tuesday (28th November).

I will report more fully in my next monthly report.

ST DENNIS PARISH ISSUES

4.0 ClayTAWC

I am chuffed to be able to confirm that it is official. I have received the offer letter for £95,000 from the Community Levelling Up funding, administered by Cornwall Council, to purchase the building and safeguard the Centre for the community going forward.

5.0 Possible multi-use trail

I am continuing to make representations about the possibility of building a project to create a multi-use trail along the old railway line between St Dennis and the Goss Moor nature reserve. I can confirm that a meeting has been arranged with senior council officers on 18th December.

6.0 Highway matters

In my meeting with the local Cormac representative on 17th November, I discussed a range of highways-related issues in St Dennis Parish. This included the following:

- The Parish Council's plan for the erection of a series of poles for mobile speed visors.
- The poor quality of road surfaces in a number of areas, where resurfacing is needed. These include Carne Hill, part of Hall Road including pavements, Gothers Road and Trelavour Road.
- The recently completed drainage works on the road near Domellick / Indian Queens Power Station and the need for future monitoring.
- The large amount of lineage in the village which needs repainting.
- My plan to do a re-consultation on a possible traffic calming at the southern entry into Hendra Road as a previous consultation received a limited response.
- My request to investigate the possibility of a streetlight in Downs Close.
- Complaints about speeding in a number of locations, including Enniscaven.
- Representations about an accident between Foxhole and Nanpean.

ST ENODER PARISH ISSUES

7.0 Planning matters

It is my understanding that the application for a solar farm at Burthy Row / Chytane, Fraddon (PA23/01893) is to be recommended for approval and that it will be considered at a meeting of the Strategic Planning Committee on 14th December.

8.0 Highway matters

In my meeting with the local Cormac representative on 17th November, I discussed a range of highways-related issues in St Enoder Parish. This included the following:

- The Parish Council's plan for the erection of a series of poles for mobile speed visors. The suggested locations are Chapeltown, Penhale, Newquay Road in St Columb Road and Trevarren Green.
- The poor quality of road surfaces in a number of areas, where resurfacing is needed. These include a section near St Enoder Churchtown and along the road between the Arrallas turning and Mitchell.
- The road surface by the new zebra crossing in Chapel Road, Indian Queens, is disappointingly breaking up a bit and the white bits on the speed humps need re-doing already.
- Some of the red surfacing outside Summercourt School is breaking up.
- Double yellow lines need to be redone close to the crossroads at Summercourt following the A3058 works [signalised crossings].
- The large amount of lineage in the village which needs repainting. This includes the bus stop markings in St Francis Road, St Columb Road, by Summercourt School, and Beacon Road, Summercourt.
- Complaints about speeding in a number of locations.
- Concerns raised about parking on Moorland Road, linked to the Industrial Estate.

Also ongoing is the proposed safety works at Sea View Terrace on the road to St Stephen and my follow-up on the Cormac study [Penhale – St Columb Road], plus how I might be able to link this to the Council's commitment to 20mph speed limits in built-up areas [timetabled for 2024].

9.0 School visit to Council offices

As a councillor, sometimes you just get to do nice things. On 9th November, I was one of the elected members who supported a visit to the council offices in

Truro by children from schools within the Aspire Academy (including Indian Queens and Summercourt). The children were a credit to their schools, and it was great to see them learning more about democracy and public services.

10.0 Remembrance Sunday

I was pleased to attend the annual Remembrance Sunday event at St Enoder Churchtown on 12th November and to read out the names of the fallen. I was also pleased to supply information about three servicemen (William James Bailey and Richard Enoder Tonkin who were lost in the First World War, and Maurice Sloman who was lost in the Second World War) and whose lives were featured in the church service.

The service at St Dennis was held at the same time as the St Enoder event and I was therefore unable to attend. I remain grateful to the Chairman of St Dennis Parish Council, Julia Clarke, who ensured that a wreath was laid on my behalf at the St Dennis commemoration.

11.0 Newsletter

As previously noted, relatively recently, I distributed a newsletter around St Dennis Parish, but because of my workload I have not yet been able get one produced for St Enoder Parish. My present plan is to draft the leaflet in December and deliver it immediately after Christmas.

HELPING LOCAL FAMILIES

12.0 Advice

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