

Cornwall Council report

Cllr Dick Cole

Time period: 1st – 26th March 2023

1.0 Council and other meetings

In terms of physical meetings of Cornwall Council in the month of March, I attended Cabinet, Customers and Support Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee, Constitution and Governance Committee, and three meetings relating to a peer review into the Council's Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Strategy.

Further meetings through Teams video-conferencing included a session about Community Levelling Up (Good Growth) funding for the China Clay Area, Group Leaders' briefing, a meeting of Cornwall Councillors in the China Clay Area and a discussion relating to the work of the Cornish National Minority Working Group.

Other physical meetings included St Dennis Parish Council, St Dennis and Nanpean Community Trust (trustee), Indian Queens Pit (trustee) and a presentation from Cornish Lithium.

2.0 Cornwall Council

2.1 Fire Control Room

I attended the meeting of Cornwall Council's Cabinet on 22nd March and I was pleased that the decision was taken to keep the Fire Control Room within Cornwall and rejected the option to out-source it to the east of the Tamar.

2.2 Peer review into Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Strategy

Between 21st and 23rd March, a team of Local Government Association representatives and peers from other councils visited Cornwall to review the unitary authority's Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Strategy. As I had chaired the councillors working group, which was a key element in the production of the Strategy, I attended two discussions and a feedback session. A full feedback report will be published in the near-future.

ST DENNIS PARISH ISSUES

3.0 Multi-use trail

The study looking at what would need to be done to turn the section of the defunct railway line between St Dennis and the Goss Moor National Nature Reserve into a multi-use trail has been ongoing. The work is being carried out by Sustrans and the draft report is expected before the end of March.

4.0 Cornish Lithium meeting

I attended the public meeting held by Cornish Lithium in The Pitch on 22nd March. A detailed update was provided, which included an acknowledgement that Cornish Lithium is carrying out some geo-technical work on one of the two most dominant skytips above St Dennis (namely Pointy). Obviously, it is not yet known what the conclusion of the assessment will be, but I know the importance of Flatty and Pointy to the local area and I will be monitoring the situation as it develops.

ST ENODER PARISH ISSUES

5.0 Orchard planting

The highlight of the last few days was the planting of 11 apple trees and four cherry trees on Parish Council land near to Indian Queens School on 23rd March. The works were carried out by the Parish Clerk (Amanda Kendall), the Parish Council handyman (Nigel Trebell) and myself, with the assistance of over seventy children and some of their teaching assistants.

The handyman has also installed three picnic benches in this area, along with two rubbish bins.

6.0 Highway matters

6.1 Pedestrianised crossings in Summercourt

The works to install three pedestrianised crossings on the crossroads are nearing completion and I have been assured that the new lights should be up in a matter of days. I have also been informed that Cormac have had supply issues with sourcing some replacement granite kerbing stones and will probably have to return after Easter to complete this one aspect of the job.

6.2 Pocohontas Crescent / Princess Parc

I have made numerous representations to Cornwall Council in recent years about the state of the road in Pocohontas Crescent. I pleased to be able to report that Cormac will be on site between 24th and 28th April to carry out "works to repair the carriageway surface" in Pocohontas Crescent and Princess Parc.

HELPING LOCAL FAMILIES

7.0 Advice

Over the last month, I have also assisted numerous households and individuals with guidance and advice on a range of topics, including housing, planning and fly-tipping.