

Cornwall Council report Cllr Dick Cole

Time period: 1st August – 25th September 2023.

Please note that I was on holiday between 16th – 24th September

1.0 Council and other meetings

As it has been the summer period, there have been fewer physical meetings over the last two months than at other times of the year. I have attended the Constitution and Governance Committee, a site visit in Clay Country with the Strategic Director for Neighbourhoods and a briefing with the team at Cornish Lithium. Other meetings through TEAMS video-conferencing included a session with staff from the Office of National Statistics about data on the Cornish National Minority from the 2021 census and monthly meetings for Cornwall Councillors from the China Clay Area and Luxulyan CAP (2), as well as St Dennis Parish Council (2) and St Enoder Parish Council (2).

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

CORNWALL COUNCIL

2.0 Homechoice

I have submitted a detailed response to the consultation into the Homechoice system, through which publicly-owned rental properties are allocated. I argued that there should be greater support for local households to secure homes in their home parishes. Linked to this, I also assisted both St Dennis Parish Council and St Enoder Parish Council with their responses to the consultation.

3.0 China Clay Area and Luxulyan Community Area Partnership

As the Chairman of the new China Clay Area and Luxulyan CAP, I have spent a considerable amount of time working with officers preparing information and paperwork for future meetings.

4.0 Site visit to Clay Country

On 29th August, I met with the Strategic Director for Neighbourhoods and the local link officer for the China Clay Area. This was an opportunity to discuss a range of local issues and potential projects, plus the future operation of the China Clay Area and Luxulyan CAP.

5.0 Planning matters

There continue to be a number of significant planning applications in my division, which are being assessed by council officers. In terms of the proposed solar farm at Burthy Row / Chytane near Fraddon (PA23/01893), the planning officer

dealing with the application is looking closely at the impact of the scheme on a property which would be close to the installation.

I am presently seeking updates on a range of applications and I will update more fully in my next monthly report.

6.0 Highway matters

I have also reported a significant number of highways-related issues in recent months and a key priority for me at this time is the preparation of a briefing for the unitary authority on the full extent of issues that have yet to be completely addressed.

I will also update more fully on this briefing in my next monthly report.

ST DENNIS PARISH ISSUES

7.0 ClayTAWC

My most pressing priority in recent months has been a series of funding applications for a number of community groups. Through my position as the Chairman of the Board at ClayTAWC, I have submitted the full application to the Community Levelling Up Programme to purchase the Old School Building from which we operate.

It is hoped that this will cover approximately half of the costs, with other funding already having been secured from the St Dennis and Nanpean Community Trust (incinerator fund).

Linked to this, a lot of work is going into making the Centre even more of a community hub. We have, for example, recently opened a community support and information room, containing a community food drop, swap and take area, while we are also putting on many more wellbeing activities.

8.0 Cornish Lithium

Cornish Lithium held a public meeting about their future plans for the Trelavour area at The Pitch on 20th September. The update included information on their drilling and testing programme that they will use to scope out the extent of the area in which they would like to mine. This obviously could impact on the two iconic skytips on the skyline above St Dennis, which are much-loved by the residents of the local area.

I was unable to attend as the meeting as it was arranged for the week when I was away on holiday. I did however meet with Cornish Lithium prior to the meeting for a briefing, and I have requested that they hold further "drop-in" sessions in the village, so that people can find out more, and express their views, in a less formal setting. They have agreed.

9.0 My newsletter

In my time as an elected member, I have always tried to deliver regular newsletters across my division, though since I have been serving a larger and more populous area following the reduction in the number of councillors in 2021, I have struggled to find the capacity to do this.

However in July and August, I was out and about delivering a newsletter across St Dennis Parish, along with further information from the Parish Council and ClayTAWC. The newsletter included an update on the Neighbourhood Plan and I would like to thank everyone who helped with the circulation of the paperwork.

We tried to get everywhere, but I realise that it is inevitable that a handful of properties may have been missed. If we have missed you, the newsletter can still be picked up at ClayTAWC.

ST ENODER PARISH ISSUES

10.0 Funding applications for local projects

As noted above, I have been working on a series of grant applications for local organisations in my division.

On behalf of St Enoder Parish Council, I have submitted a bid for funding to improve the original parking area in the Indian Queens Recreation Ground with new tarmac. This would include the provision of a disabled parking space immediately adjacent to the Youth Club building which has just been extended.

In addition, I am working with the Indian Queens Under-5s Pre-School and Fraddon Millennium Green with applications to Cornwall Council's Community Infrastructure Levy Fund. This follows positive responses to expressions of interest. The applications are for the refurbishment of the Pre-School building in Indian Queens Recreation Ground and a new piece of play equipment in the Millennium Green. The deadline is mid-October and I will be so relieved when these forms have been completed and submitted.

11.0 Another newsletter

I am presently drafting a newsletter for distribution around St Enoder Parish, which I hope to be able to deliver during October.

HELPING LOCAL FAMILIES

12.0 Advice

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