

Cornwall Council report

Cllr Dick Cole

Time period: 27th May – 30th June 2024

Please note I was on holiday between 31st May – 9th June.

1.0 Council and other meetings

Over the last month, physical meetings at Cornwall Council have included the Corporate Finance and Performance Overview and Scrutiny Committee, Constitution and Governance Committee and the China Clay Area and Luxulyan Community Area Partnership. Other physical meetings have included St Dennis Parish Council and associated Neighbourhood Planning working group (2), and St Enoder Parish Council (2).

I have also attended a range of online Cornwall Council meetings via Teams video-conferencing. These have included a meeting about a White Paper seeking greater devolution for Cornwall and a meeting for councillors from the China Clay Area.

2.0 Meeting with CORMAC

I had a meeting with the local Highway Manager on 29th May about a range of highway-related matters across both St Dennis and St Enoder parishes. The detail of what was discussed is covered in the below sections relating to the two parishes.

3.0 Local Lettings Plans

Staff at Cornwall Council are continuing to discuss the content of local lettings plans for both St Dennis and St Enoder parishes. I held a meeting with a senior housing officer on 28th June.

I can confirm that the present drafts contain a commitment to ensure that all existing rental properties [with legal agreements or nomination agreements] continue to prioritise households with a connection to the host parish. The document also seeks that 75% of rental properties, without legal agreements, should also prioritise households from the host parish.

I am reviewing paperwork at the moment before it goes in front of other officers and representatives of the housing association. Another meeting has been timetabled for mid-July.

4.0 China Clay Area and Luxulyan Community Area Partnership

At the meeting of the above CAP on 24th June, I was pleased to be re-elected Chairman.

5.0 China Clay Area and Luxulyan CAP / Renewable energy

I was also the co-author of a short report about the delivery renewal energy within the CAP, which was tabled at the recent CAP meeting.

The summary of the report was as follows:

The Cornwall Climate Emergency Development Plan Document Policy RE1 – sets out Cornwall’s target of 100% renewable electricity supply by 2030. Cornwall is currently at **42.38% [796.43 MW]** of the target based on its current renewable electricity capacity.

To meet 100% of its current electricity consumption, Cornwall would need a capacity of approximately **1,879.2MW** although this will vary depending on the renewable electricity technologies installed.

Renewable Energy Capacity within the China Clay Area & Luxulyan CAP Area

- The China Clay Area and Luxulyan CAP covers an area of **15,953.1ha**.
- Cornwall covers an area overall of **361,337.6ha**.
- Therefore the China Clay Area and Luxulyan CAP covers an area of **4.415%** of Cornwall.

Based solely on area of the CAP and not taking into account other factors such as increases in electricity demand as well as limitations of constraints (such as wind speeds, environmental designations, grid connection constraints) on other areas in Cornwall’s ability to provide renewables, it can be noted that the China Clay Area and Luxulyan CAP share based on area of the above 1,879.2MW capacity would be **82.96 MW**.

Data shows that the CAP has achieved this capacity with a current installed capacity, as follows.

Operational capacity in megawatts	
Wind energy (24 turbines)	10.92 MW
Ground mounted large scale solar (14 sites)	75.45 MW
Energy from Waste (Incinerator)	26.30 MW
Geothermal Energy (Eden Project)	1.40 MW
TOTAL	114.07 MW (6.07% of target capacity)

Wind turbines consented but not yet operational have a total capacity of 4.1 MW. Planning consent has also been granted for a solar farm near Fraddon for 49.9 MW. Once built, these would bring installed capacity to **168.07 MW (8.94% of target capacity)**.

There is a current planning application for another solar installation near Trethurgy which would provide an additional **17.51 MW** should it be

approved. In addition, there are three other applications for solar arrays at various stages of development, though planning applications have not yet been submitted. These are as follows (planning numbers relate to environmental impact assessment applications):

PA21/08542	Trerice (St Dennis Parish)	34.1 MW
PA21/08039	Tresithney (St Enoder Parish)	49.9 MW
[On the website for the above development it is described as 'paused']		
PA23/10027	Trelion area (St Stephen Parish)	49.9 MW

Summary

Please note that if all the applications noted above were consented, the CAP would have an installed capacity of **319.48 MW – this would equate to or one-sixth of the target capacity for the whole of Cornwall.**

Please also note that the above figures do not include small-scale roof and other solar installations.

6.0 "Report it"

Over the last month, I have reported a high number of local issues of concern to residents. This has included fly-tipping, potholes and overgrown verges. If you spot a similar problem, you can also report it through Cornwall Council's website at: <https://www.cornwall.gov.uk/report-something/>

ST DENNIS PARISH

7.0 St Dennis Neighbourhood Plan

As previously reported, a Parish Council working group and I are working on the "direction of travel" document for the Plan, which will then form the basis of the next consultation. The next meeting is planned for Thursday 4th July.

8.0 Traffic matters

8.1 Feasibility assessment on traffic concerns

Also as previously reported, at the Parish Council meeting on 7th May, parish councillors discussed a range of issues with traffic congestion, traffic speed, parking and related matters within the heart of the village. The possibility of a one-way system along some roads was suggested. I approached Cornwall Council and requested that a detailed feasibility or assessment is undertaken of the traffic problems in St Dennis.

The response has been less positive that I had hoped, because of budget pressures and the capacity of council staff. It has been agreed that I can produce a briefing document to make a stronger case for the works, which I plan to do this month.

8.2 Meeting with local Highway Manager

At the meeting on 29th May, and via subsequent phone calls and emails, I raised concerns and / or discussed progress on a highway-related matters across St Dennis Parish.

Topics included:

- Poor quality of road surfaces, including Carne Hill, Hall Road including pavements, Gothers Road and Trelavour Road.
- Lineage in need of repainting. This includes the area near ClayTAWC, Hall Road junction by school, speed humps on Hall Road. etc, and bus stops in Robartes Road.
- Parking issues at the top of Trelavour Road.
- Data collection of speeding traffic in the Enniscaven area.
- Over-grown verges and weeds growing around the village.
- New welcome signs into St Dennis Parish and name-plates for hamlets such as Enniscaven, Gothers and Trelance Terrace.

8.3 CAP highway scheme

Cornwall Council are keen to get the view of the Parish Council on the proposal to construct an additional traffic calming measure at the top to Hendra Road. Hopefully, this can be discussed at the Parish Council meeting on 2nd July.

9.0 Planning matters

9.1 Hendra Prazey [PA20/11311]

The application for housing on land at Hendra Prazey has been referred to the Central Sub-Area Planning Committee for decision. The meeting will take place on Monday 29th July. I have also told the planning officers that I expect there to be a site visit for councillors, prior to the meeting, so that they can see the highway concerns raised by the Parish Council for themselves.

ST ENODER PARISH

10.0 Traffic matters

10.1 Meeting with local Highway Manager

At the meeting on 29th May, and via subsequent phone calls and emails, I raised concerns and / or discussed progress on a highway-related matters across St Enoder Parish.

Topics included:

- The flooding problems at Trefullock.
- Poor quality of road surfaces, including section near St Enoder Churchtown and along the road between Arrallas turning and Mitchell, at the zebra crossing in the Chapel Road, Indian Queens, and the red surfacing bear to Summercourt School. The red surfacing has just been repaired.
- A considerable amount of lineage is in need of repainting. This includes junction markings, speed bumps on Chapel Road, bus stop markings in St Francis Road, St Columb Road, by Summercourt School, and Beacon Road, Summercourt.
- Recent issues with roadworks, the cabling through local villages and related issues with traffic lights.
- Blocked road gulley at Summercourt crossroads which has led to repeated flooding in the road. This has been cleaned out, but I will intend to keep monitoring this situation.
- Smells near New Row, Summercourt. It transpires that there has been problems with the treatment plant [electricity supply to the blowers had tripped]. Works have been done, but I also will intend to keep monitoring this situation.
- Concerns also raised about parking on and around the Indian Queens Industrial Estate.
- Complaints about vegetation in various parts of the Parish.

11.0 Planning matters

11.1 Proposed holiday development at St Columb Road [PA23/05462]

Last year, a proposal was submitted for outline planning permission for tourist accommodation to the rear of Silver Birch Gardens, St Columb Road, where an application for housing had been turned down previously. There was considerable opposition to the holiday scheme from local residents. I can confirm that Cornwall Council has refused the application. The main reason was as follows:

It is considered that the proposed scale of tourist development in this location would not be well related to the physical form of the settlement and would be at odds with the prevailing character in this location and would appear as inappropriate tourist development encroaching into the open countryside and landscape which would have a detrimental impact upon the intrinsic rural character. The proposal is therefore contrary to policy 2, 5 and 23 of the Cornwall

Local Plan and policies 1, 2 and 5 of the St Enoder Parish Neighbourhood Plan.

11.2 Indian Queens Industrial Estate

As previously noted, last year, planning permission was secured for the extension of Unit 2 on the industrial estate. This followed failed applications for other proposals in this area, which included a new access of Moorland Road that was opposed by local residents. On Friday 24th May, I was surprised to see a new entrance had been cut through the hedge into the rear of the plot. I have since found that Cornwall Council streetworks had given consent for a temporary entrance for the delivery of some of the framework for the build.

In recent weeks, I have made complaints about this and discussions are ongoing about how long it would be appropriate for the gap in the hedge to stay open.

The developers have also lodged their landscaping plan for the project. It is not the substantial planting that was expected in lieu of the established copse of trees and shrubs that were removed prior to the submission of the various planning applications. I have also made representations on this point.

11.3 Burthy Solar farm [PA23/01893]

The solar farm at Burthy near Fraddon was consented last year. Through the planning process it was agreed that the Parish Council would receive £17,000 per annum, which could be used for community projects or grants to community organisations.

The necessary legal agreement has just been received by the Parish Clerk and myself. We are presently reviewing this document.

14.0 Thomas Playing Field, Summercourt

Discussions with the suppliers are ongoing about the timetable for the significant repair / replacement works in the playing field. It looks likely that these will be undertaken in September, just after the school holidays.

SUPPORT FOR LOCAL FAMILIES

15.0 Advice

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