

Cornwall Council report

Cllr Dick Cole

Time period: 1st July – 31st July 2024

1.0 Council and other meetings

Over the last month, physical meetings at Cornwall Council have included Full Council, Cabinet, Corporate Finance and Performance Overview and Scrutiny Committee (CFPOSC), and Central Sub-Area Planning Committee.

I have also attended a range of online Cornwall Council meetings via Teams video-conferencing. These have included a briefing in advance of the last Full Council meeting, a briefing for CFPOSC, Group Leaders meeting, the Cornish National Minority Working Group (and associated preparatory meeting), three meetings about a White Paper, and two meetings about local lettings plans for St Dennis and St Enoder.

Other physical meetings have included St Dennis Parish Council and associated Neighbourhood Planning working group, St Enoder Parish Council (2), Cornish Lithium Liaison Group, ClayTAWC and Fraddon Village Hall.

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

2.0 Devolution White Paper

The unitary authority has produced a “White Paper” setting out a call for greater devolution for Cornwall, which could be submitted to the new UK Government. The Group Leaders, including myself, were involved in the discussions around the document. But the White Paper is not what I hoped it would be – it does represent “proper devolution.” I have already appealed to the Cabinet to make additional changes to strengthen the document further.

The White Paper opens with a foreword, that states Cornwall is a “proud Celtic nation” and also notes the national minority status of the Cornish people, while calling for a “deeper devolution settlement” that reflects the status Cornwall shares with Wales, Scotland and Ireland.

But that narrative of parity with the other Celtic nations does not extend fully throughout it. It seems to me that, for much of the text, the authors fall into the trap of seeing devolution in the context of English local government.

There is now a period of consultation before the White Paper is finalised and I will be making further representatives

3.0 Local Lettings Plans

Further to my recent reports, I can confirm that staff at Cornwall Council have confirmed that in the proposed lettings plans I have been negotiating, 75% of

rentals from the older social housing in St Dennis and St Enoder parishes will go to households from the host parish.

I do not yet have a date for when the LLPs will come into force.

4.0 "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

5.0 Planning matters / Hendra Prazey [PA20/11311]

The application for housing on land at Hendra Prazey was presented to a meeting of the Central Sub-Area Planning Committee for decision on 22nd July. The Chairman of the Parish Council, Julia Clark, spoke and raised concerns about the problems with the site, particularly relating to road safety and the railway bridge. The Cornwall Councillors on the Committee were sympathetic to such concerns, but took the view that the provision of 23 affordable homes outweighed the negatives associated with the site.

The original application had been for affordable rent units (at a discount of about 20% off open-market rents), but I am pleased that, following representations from me and others, this has been changed to social rent properties (at a discount of about 50% off open-market rents). The Land Trust promoting the scheme has also promised that (i) there will be legal agreements that will guarantee the properties will go to households with links to St Dennis Parish and (ii) they will work with the Parish Council in publicising future lettings.

6.0 Traffic matters

Following recent meetings with CORMAC, I continue to make representations about a range of traffic matters. But I am pleased that, following representations, CORMAC will soon be commencing a significant programme of works to improve the pavements in the Hall Road / Halimote Road / Manson Place area of St Dennis.

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 text for the document is complete and the maps and the images will soon be inserted. The document is likely to be circulated around St Dennis Parish during September.

8.0 ClayTAWC

The Board at ClayTAWC is edging ever closer to the completion of the purchase of the Old School building and we are pleased that there will soon be a community open day to celebrate 25 years of ClayTAWC and this new chapter for the organisation. This will take place on Saturday 31st August. Please look out for more information in the coming days.

ST ENODER PARISH

9.0 Indian Queens Under-5s

I am pleased to see that the works to refurbish the Pre-School building have commenced. These works are being funded by monies from the Community Infrastructure Levy.

10.0 Fraddon Millennium Green

I am also pleased that works are about to start on improvements to the Green. Contractors will soon be removing the old safety surfacing and we will painting the existing equipment. Once the new safety surfacing is down, a new tractor and slide will be installed. Later in the year, contractors will also be on-site to remove dead trees and trim back vegetation, etc.

The core of works are also being funded by monies from the Community Infrastructure Levy.

11.0 Planning matters / Burthy Solar farm [PA23/01893]

As reported last month, the Parish Clerk and I have been reviewing the content of the legal agreement relating to the community fund associated with the recently-consented Burthy Solar Farm. I can confirm that we have completed the review and sent the comments to the developers for re-drafting.

SUPPORT FOR LOCAL FAMILIES

12.0 Advice

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