

CORNWALL COUNCILLOR UPDATE FOR JANUARY 2025



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Cornwall Council and around the Peninsula-

Cawsand Carpark & Antony Road Carpark

I am incredibly disappointed to report that there is still no update on the outcome of Cawsand carpark and Antony Road carpark. I have been contacting the officers in charge on an almost daily basis and keep being told a report is imminent - but despite my best efforts this has not been forthcoming. I have made the frustrations of the community known, and will be escalating this to the Chief Executive of the Council as well. It has been far too long to be left in limbo.

Adult Education in Torpoint

Confirmation has now been received that Torpoint and Saltash Adult Ed provision will be cancelled. It is such short termism, when the Council will be taking control of the Adult Ed budget from the Dept for Education within a matter of months. If I am re-elected, I will be pushing the new administration to renew the provision here on the Rame Peninsula. We shouldn't be making it harder for folk to get involved with education.

Full Council Report

At January's Full Council meeting we had a number of constitutional changes to vote on, which proved more controversial than officers and the administration probably thought. One was about the vice chairmanship of scrutiny committees, these (and the Chairmanships) are usually given to Cllrs from the ruling administration - they attract quite a hefty Special Responsibility Allowance with them. An independent body that reviewed CCs way of working recommended that for proper scrutiny, these should be chaired and vice chaired by members of opposition groups - last year, the ruling administration decided to push this until the new council after the election, even though the recommendation was for it to start immediately. The debate this time was around allowing ruling administration Cllrs to be Vice-Chairs. My view is it should be the Cllrs that are best placed to do the job, and that - in the interest of proper scrutiny - they should come from the opposition benches.

We also discussed asking the National Trust to use its holiday let houses as long term let homes, helping to alleviate the housing crisis.

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We then discussed devolution. It wasn't a very nuanced debate sadly, but probably not unexpectedly considering how close we are to elections. I have received a lot of correspondence about the devo proposals, with an awful lot of people in favour of a wider strategic mayoral authority. Perhaps not that surprising considering a lot of our services come from Devon and Plymouth and we are often ignored by Truro. The sense I get is that people most definitely want to protect our Cornish identity in anything that goes forward, this is something that I strongly believe as well. It has to be right for Cornwall, and it has to be right for folk here in Rame & St Germans.

The White Paper can be found [HERE](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/english-devolution-white-paper-power-and-partnership-foundations-for-growth/english-devolution-white-paper) or <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/english-devolution-white-paper-power-and-partnership-foundations-for-growth/english-devolution-white-paper>

Flooding

January saw a massive amount of water falling from above, and this was keenly felt on Hounster Hill in Millbrook. Huge thanks to residents that were out clearing storm drains and gullies. There is an ongoing issue on the hill here, which bizarrely stems from BT ducting that hasn't been cleared in years. Highways are not permitted to touch their equipment, so can not get involved and BT are incredibly difficult to get hold of - ironically. This issue has now been escalated with the help of Anna Gelderd MPs office and we hope to see a resolution. Thanks to Highways for coming out and providing sandbags to try and divert water from peoples homes.