

Cornwall Councillor Report - Carlyon Parish - September 2022

I couldn't start my report with commenting on the sad passing of our Queen, Elizabeth II, on September 8th.

As Cornwall Councillor I was honoured to sign the County Book of Condolence at County Hall, and attend the County Accession Ceremony and Remembrance Service, both held at Truro Cathedral, on behalf of the St Austell and Mevagissey Division.

Thank you for service Ma'am and long live the King!

Frustratingly, you might have heard that I suffered an accident in August, and was subsequently confined to quarters for nearly a whole month afterwards. While I am, now on the mend, I am not 100% so please do bear with me if I have not been as physically active as I normally like to be.

In more positive news, the Shared Prosperity Fund (SPF) is now open for bids. I have circulated an email with details on how to apply to parish clerks in my area and would advise councillors to share with any local businesses or groups who may be interested. Parish Councils can also apply themselves. The link to it is below:

https://www.cornwall.gov.uk/council-news/council-budgets-and-economy/bids-invited-from-organisations-which-can-drive-good-growth-for-cornwall-and-the-isles-of-scil/?fbclid=IwAR1vRp-5zNwcQj8fF4q0PW_SdpwjNnSDzjdJ63Qc11N_GUtaUonrGSOAaQ

I met with Cllr Louis Gardner, who is the Cabinet Member on Cornwall Council responsible for Economic Growth and is leading on the SPF.

It was good to hear from Louis that Cornwall Council are doing all they can to make the fund as accessible as possible. and that council officers will see which part of the fund is most appropriate and allocate it accordingly, once applications are made.

Recently I was pleased to meet the team from Kensa, a Cornish-based company that does work around the country, and see their innovative project in Carlyon Bay.

The Heat the Streets initiative is an excellent one and it was useful to hear more about the benefits of ground source heat pumps as an energy supply method that will be critical to help the country achieve its green energy goals for the future.

It is good to see Kensa working with a range of properties across Cornwall, new and old, private and social rent, to showcase the flexibility of the ground source heat pump and the ease in which it can be installed and then left in situ. I look forward to seeing this work continue as a viable option for a greener and cleaner energy future for Cornwall.

I also met with the team at the Charlestown Station of the National Coastwatch Institution.

They do invaluable work liaising with the Coastguard, RNLI and other emergency services to keep our coasts and coastal waters safe.

I have been working with Cornwall Council on their new expanded e-bike hire scheme, which is due to come to the St Austell area in October

- Beryl Bikes will be operating the e-bike hire scheme.
- The scheme will be operational in Penzance, Newquay, Truro, St Austell and Falmouth/Penryn areas
- Funding for the scheme is from Carbon Neutral Cornwall and additional Department for Transport funding.
- Each town will have 50 e-bikes for hire via an app (or phone) and there will be 20 bays across each town where bikes can be hired from and dropped off. Users can leave bikes at different locations to the one they hired from.
- Bays will be painted on the ground with no charging infrastructure on site as batteries will be charged remotely and replaced by local teams, who will also redistribute the bikes according to demand. The bays are geo-fenced so users have to drop their bike back in a bay or incur a penalty fee. This light touch infrastructure makes the scheme highly flexible in terms of changing locations of bays or adding in new ones.

A provisional list of sites for bays, which will be reduced to initially around 20, was unveiled at the Community Network Panel meeting last week. In Carlyon Parish there are bikes due to be locations around Crinnis Beach, Pineturn Gardens, and near AJ's, as well as at the Eden Project and in Holmbush.

Meanwhile up at County Hall I led a cross party motion to get Cornwall Council to back the National Farmers Union's petition to the Government to ban the sale and use of sky lanterns.

I originally led the campaign for Cornwall Council to ban the use of these things from council land and from events with licenses back in 2015, and was pleased to see the council unanimously vote for my motion last week, which also included approval for an online safety awareness campaign from the council to highlight how dangerous these things are.

Finally, I was pleased to attend a great charity event for Sally's Cat Rescue at Tregrehan Mills on 28th August (which ironically, was a dog show). It was brilliant to see the community involved, and thanks to the organisers for giving me a hay bale to sit on!