

Cornwall Councillor Report – Carlyon Parish Council – December 2024

I hope everyone is enjoying December and the run up to Christmas, it's certainly been a busy month for me so far and it's less than halfway through at the time of writing.

The weekend of 7-8 December was dominated by Storm Darragh and some seriously blowy winds. During times like this, I am always pleased to act as a conduit for local people in reporting the various hazards that occur to Cormac so they can stay on top of what was undoubtedly a hectic weekend right across Cornwall.

On Saturday alone I reported more than twenty fallen trees across my division, several of which had taken out power cables, causing blackouts in Pentewan Valley that lingered on over the whole weekend. This continued onto Sunday with trees falling all over the place, of note several in and around Tregrehan Mills and on Par Moor Road. Thank you to parish councillors for your help in getting them properly documented and reported and well done to Cormac and its contractors who worked flat out through the weekend in difficult conditions to deal with the worst falls.

In Gwallon Keas I was approached by residents about getting grit bins installed at key points on the estate, particularly around the steep hill that is the only way in or out. I accordingly contacted the parish council about it and was pleased to see it on the agenda for tonight. If the parish council does vote to provide them, I would suggest a site meeting with myself and the residents in the New Year to get the locations nailed down should be the next step.

Earlier last week I was pleased to meet with Imerys at the Par Moor labs and get an update on some of their work, both in terms of china clay and lithium. In particular they are making progress with their lithium interests and showed us an early stage video which they're still working on which shows three places where they will be building new or expanding existing infrastructure to work in this area. Big investment and lots of jobs. All on land that would be considered brownfield too due to existing or previous mining activity in the area. None in Carlyon Parish but it will be good for their head office, which is located here!

Since my last report, I was pleased to speak in support of the motion to support our family farms against the Government's proposed changes. which I seconded, and see this motion backed by all Conservative, Liberal Democrat and Mebyon Kernow Councillors, as well as most of the Independent ones. I was sorry to see that the Labour Councillors and the one Green Party Councillor did not back it.

These changes, which include restrictions to Agricultural Property Relief (APR) and Business Property Relief (BPR), are being called a 'Family Farm Tax' due to their devastating impact on family farms and rural communities. I spoke up on behalf of farmers in my division, who gave me powerful testimony about how they feel these changes will impact them and their families.

This is a cruel policy based on fundamental misunderstandings from a Labour Government and its supporters who are either woefully out of touch with rural communities or just don't care, and is nothing more than weaponised and poorly targeted ideological warfare against some of our hardest working families.

I am pleased that we have done what we can as a council and spoken up on behalf of our farmers and added our voice to theirs in speaking out on these damaging changes and pushing for the change that is needed at this difficult time.

In terms of other big issues, I wanted to highlight the proposals announced last week by the Government around changing the planning system.

It can be a lot of work for me, but 'calling in' planning applications, for refusal or approval at the planning committee, has always been in my view an important and democratically necessary part of the planning system, allowing parish councils to have their say when they don't agree with Cornwall Council's planning department's recommendations.

Now the government is effectively recommending removing this part of the planning process as part of their planning reforms. They say that,

'for applications that comply with local development [there are] plans to bypass planning committees entirely'.

It should be noted that applications are normally only referred to Committee for refusal if we believe they are not compliant with planning policy, against the recommendations of officers, who will say they are compliant.

Sadly I think this is a step backwards, with the Government's plans to allow developers to quickly build thousands of houses over-ruling the valid views of the communities these houses will be built in.

With the new waste and recycling regime in place, this is the first Christmas where we have had this. Cornwall Council have produced this helpful graphic which shows when any rearranged general waste or recycling collections will take place:

Christmas collections
for, recycling, rubbish, food and garden waste

If your collection is due on:	We'll collect on:
Monday 23 December	Normal Collection
Tuesday 24 December	Normal Collection
Wednesday 25 December	Friday 27 December
Thursday 26 December	Saturday 28 December
Friday 27 December	Monday 30 December
Monday 30 December	Tuesday 31 December
Tuesday 31 December	Wednesday 1 January
Wednesday 1 January	Thursday 2 January
Thursday 2 January	Friday 3 January
Friday 3 January	Saturday 4 January

All other collections will take place as normal. To download a collection calendar visit www.cornwall.gov.uk/myarea or call **0300 1234 141**.



www.cornwall.gov.uk/recycle

Finally I'd like to thank everyone for your support over what has been a busy year, and wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy and Healthy 2025.

As ever, should people wish to get in touch, they are very welcome to do so, via cllr.james.mustoe@cornwall.gov.uk or at 07885277670