

Cornwall Councillor Report – Carlyon Parish - February 2025

I hope you are all well as we head through February, which has been a busy month that seems to have gone by really quickly.

I was incredibly disappointed to see that the Planning Inspector, acting on behalf of the Secretary of State for Housing, Planning and Local Government, upheld the appeal to build 50 houses in a field adjacent to Carlyon Parish.

This overturns a decision made locally, by a committee of Cornwall Councillors to refuse the original application after it was called in by my neighbouring councillor Jordan Rowse, who led an excellent campaign on this, along with local residents.

I spoke at committee at last year and argued, successfully at the time, that this application was not needed, as it would see prime agricultural land concreted over, would cause increased run off and flooding in nearby Tregrehan Mills, and that this part of St Austell is totally overdeveloped already, with hundreds of houses recently built at Gwallon Keas at the bottom of the hill, and hundreds more currently being built in the eco village at the top of the hill.

Unfortunately I think that with the new mandatory housing targets being imposed on us and the central directive to 'build, build, build' that this is just the tip of the iceberg.

A sad day for local democracy.

It was great to be back out with the St Austell Tidy Up Team, doing a litter pick in Holmbush and Carlyon Parish.

However Julia Jory and I then encountered the most colossal grot spot that I've ever seen. An area of woodland and some sort of water overflow site that was completely overflowing with hundreds and hundreds of discarded alcohol bottles and cans.

For the first time in our cleaning up history we simply didn't have the equipment or capacity to clean it all up!

This should be a beautiful piece of woodland but as it stands it is sadly nothing more than a dump. The people who did this should be ashamed of themselves and I'm sorry we couldn't do more.

The team kindly went back and cleared the rest a couple of weeks later.

It was brilliant to join residents in Tregrehan Mills for an Orchard Wassail to bless the new apple trees in their new Community Orchard.

They even let me toast a tree and lead a Wassail Shout!

Great fun and a wonderful community tradition that we can now do in the devolved Jubilee Field.

Thanks to Neal and Julia Barnes for arranging.

Thanks to the clerk for progressing the Gwallon Keas grit bins, which are now due to be delivered, hopefully before it gets too warm to use them for another year!

On broader matters It was great to visit the Mid Cornwall Hub along with my neighbouring councillor Michael Bunney, Community Link Officer Sarah Scoltock and some of our local PCSO's to meet with local residents with a range of additional needs.

What an amazing warm and nurturing environment, just brilliant to speak to the service users and staff about their experiences and roles, as well as talk about our work as councillors and how we can listen to the voices of what is an underrepresented group of people. I will definitely visit again.

I also met with the new St Austell area Sector Inspector Simon Andrews at St Austell Police Station.

Our police do a great job locally and it was good to talk to Simon about his priorities for both St Austell and the surrounding communities over the coming months, as well as bring him up to date on some local issues and potential areas of interest in my division for future scrutiny.

Thanks to Simon and his excellent team for all they do, and I look forward to working with them in the future.

Up at County Hall it was great to see the motion stating that Cornwall Council backs a Cornwall only devolution deal and saying a big fat NO to a combined Devon and Cornwall Mayor was passed by a veritable cross-party landslide.

A positive and encouraging debate too, which it was good to participate in.

Onwards and upwards, Kernow bys Vyken!

Finally, the latest and last round of Shared Prosperity Funding has now launched, with applications being open until the end of February. I have already contacted organisations who have previously expressed an interest and am happy to support and signpost anyone else who wants to come forward, bearing in mind the tight timescales.

As ever, should people need to speak to me about any issues, please contact me on 07885 277670 or at cllr.james.mustoe@cornwall.gov.uk and I will do my best to help.