

Cornwall Councillor Report – November 2024 – Carlyon Parish

I hope you are all well as we go through November.

On Remembrance Sunday and Armistice Day it was an honour as ever to join our communities for services and acts of remembrance around our division. Taking part in these events really brings home the sacrifices made by the men and families of our parish in the two world wars, to conflicts as recently as Afghanistan, so that we can live in freedom today.

In terms of flooding updates for Tregrehan and the surrounding area, Maxwell has advised as follows:

- Tregrehan Mills flooding – No reports back of issues, he is in regular contact with the relevant farm with the Environment Agency (EA) having previously consulted tenant farmer about runoff.
- Garker General – he is hoping to publish an update on Cornwall Council progress however this is being hampered by slow responses from the EA – he hopes to distribute this to both parish councils and elected members.
- Garker Lower catchment – he is awaiting details of land sale to establish contact with new land owner, concept design for channel realignment undertaken – consulting with EA and investigating funding.
- Garker Upper catchment – Establishing outline cost for solution to understand if funding may be available, trying to action emergency bank repairs on breaches before further damage occurs over winter, He is undertaking a further round of enquiries occurring to track down the landowner.

I was contacted about unauthorised tree pruning works last week in Carlyon Bay, and was able to get these stopped, pending determination of a planning application. Carrying works out to a tree with a Tree Preservation Order (TPO) on it without planning permission is illegal.

That being said, the outstanding planning application is for the removal of growth on a TPO tree for highway clearance. The Highway Act states that trees must give 5.2m clearance above the carriageway and this Act trumps the fact that there is a TPO on the tree and therefore the planning officer said that is highly unlikely that the application will be refused. Permission must still be sought and obtained before works can start though.

In a quick update on Crinnis Beach, you will probably be familiar with the licensing application that varied the permissions to allow the concession stands on the beach to remain open for the winter months. Having visited and spoken to several of these businesses during the latter part of October and early November, I understand that only one of those businesses is currently planning to remain open all year round – so please do go and support them – it is a great place to visit and walk your dog in the winter and having somewhere to get a cup of tea while doing so is incredibly helpful.

At the time of writing this I have also just had confirmation that Cypress Avenue is going to be closed on 3 December in the day time for utility works to be carried out. Hopefully this will be done quickly with minimal disruption to road users, but please do bear in mind on the day.

On 26 November at Full Council I am seconding a motion that sets out:

1. To request that the Leader of the Council writes to the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs to outline the Council's dismay at the decision in the Budget to restrict Agricultural Property Relief and calls on the Government to stop the Family Farm Tax.

2. That the Cabinet Member for Environment and Climate Change engages with local farmers and community representatives to consider what support the Council can provide to support them.

While my division no longer has the very rural St Gorrán Parish in it, there are still farms in every parish that I represent, as well as people who work in the many industries that support or are reliant on our local farms.

As a predominantly rural Duchy or county, with a greater percentage of small family owned farms than other rural areas, Cornwall does stand to be more harshly impacted by these proposals than other parts of the country, and with this in mind, it is only right that we are asking Cornwall Council to do what it can to both directly support our farmers in their time of need, as well as lobby the government with what I hope will be a unanimous voice to get these changes, which I am sure were not intentionally designed to inflict so much potential damage on family businesses, to be reviewed and reversed as soon as possible.

Finally I was quite surprised to realise that 6 November marked the tenth anniversary of my first election as Cornwall Councillor, way back in 2014, and thus the beginning of my 11th year in office.

It remains a great privilege to serve or to have served the people, businesses and communities in the parishes of Mevagissey, St Gorrán, Pentewan Valley, St Austell Bay and Carlyon over the years.

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

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