

CORNWALL COUNCILLOR UPDATE FOR JUNE 2023



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Cornwall Council and around the Peninsula-

Verges

We started June with a battle over our overgrown verges around the division, as we have progressed through the month these have been, for the most part, tackled thankfully. In Millbrook I had real concerns about the lack of visibility along side the lake. It took many phone calls and emails, but I was pleased to finally see the area that Cornwall Council is responsible for, cut back. Since then. I have been talking to officers about a plan for that verge area as it is an issue each year. I can now say that it has been agreed to start the wildflower planting here in the Autumn of this year. This will start with the planting of a grass called 'yellow rattle' that will out compete the grasses that are there and which does not grow very tall. This should see a much more manageable area, with lower grass length.

Dark skies

As all PCs will be aware, Cornwall Council has declared that all street lights - except in areas with high levels of anti-social behaviour - will be turned off between midnight and 5am from the end of this year. The Parishes I represent have, for the most part, signalled their concerns over this programme. For most, the concept of a dark skies programme is not unwelcome, but it feels too rushed and that there has been a lack of consultation and information on the project. I have fed this back to officers dealing with the work and have requested sight of the risk assessment.

National Armed Forces Day - Flag relay event.

I was really pleased to join other Cornwall Cllrs, including the Chair of Cornwall Council, and Torpoint Town Cllrs for the Flag relay event at HMS Raleigh in mid June. It is a source of pride that the vast majority of the Royal Navy start their careers at HMS Raleigh, so be able to attend an event that was to thank them and their families for their service was really moving. I then attended the National Event day held in Falmouth on the 24th June, where I was pleased to bump into many residents of the Rame Peninsula.

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Highways

Continuing on the subject of the A38 Safety funding, I was able to arrange for the transport portfolio holder to meet with myself and campaigners from the Safe38 group early in June. While the A38 is not within his portfolio, it is managed by National Highways, we wanted Cllr Donnithorne to be aware of the very specific issues that we have in Tideford and up to Trerulefoot roundabout. Cllr Donnithorne has pledged that he will do all he can to apply pressure to Government to reinstate the funding we need.

Community Area Partnership

In June we held our inaugural meeting of the new Community Area Partnership; this meeting was held in Eliot Hall in St Germans and it was lovely to be able to welcome 29 Parishes and the 11 other Cornwall Cllrs to the area. It was a well organised meeting where we all agreed that one of our primary focuses should be for the A38 as it effects so many. Thank you to those PCs that did send a delegate - if yours didn't please do elect one.

Torpoint MUGA - multi use game area

Torpoint TC are ploughing on with their plans to build a MUGA in Torpoint. I have attached a copy of their press release for your information. I know they will be asking to attend your Parish Council meetings in the coming months where they will be asking for your support.

Proposed 3G Football Turf Pitch
Updated 27th June 2023

Local partners have been working to improve sporting facilities for Torpoint and the Rame Peninsula for many years, and there has been a strong desire to have a Multi Use Games Area type facility located in Torpoint to support local schools, clubs and other organisations.

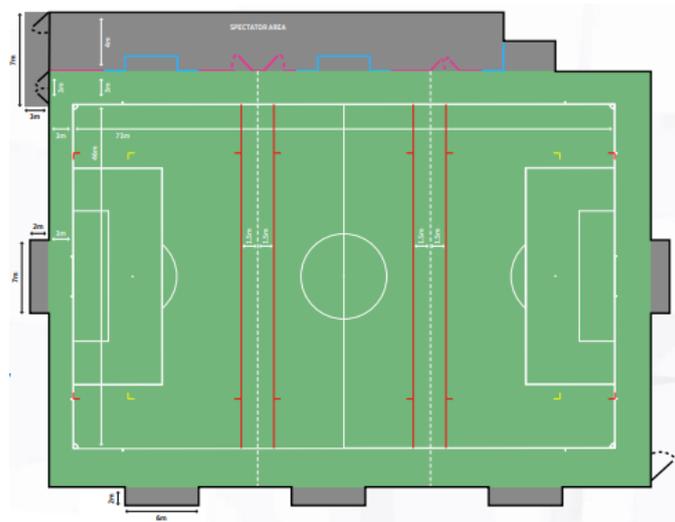
Following recent meetings with the Football Foundation, there is now a real opportunity to pursue the development of a 9v9 3G Football Turf Pitch (FTP) in Torpoint. This facility would be located on the sports field behind the YMCA Sports Centre for use by the College (and other local schools) during term time, and by the local community on evenings, weekends and during the holiday periods. This facility could be used year-round, irrespective of the weather, and should provide a welcome addition to the area. Provided the appropriate footwear is worn and manufacturer guidelines are followed, the facility can be used for a myriad of sports and activities.

As it is proposed the facility will be located on Torpoint Community College grounds, the College is now taking the lead with this initiative. However, it is very much a collaborative project with a team comprising members from the Torpoint Town Council, Plymouth YMCA, Torpoint and Rame Active Community Network and Cornwall FA working towards achieving this very exciting goal. We will also be working with the local Football Clubs and Argyle Community Trust who will be key to the delivery of football and wider sporting outcomes and support.

Notwithstanding the work that has already been completed, it is important we continue to engage with the wider community to find out what type of sports and physical activities they would like, how this project could deliver activity that will benefit both individuals and the wider local community, and how it will impact the growth and retention of both associated and recreational football in the area.

Tackling inequalities and under-represented groups will also be a focus for the community engagement to help address any local inequalities that may exist. Local organisations and charities will be contacted to see if the project can support their delivery. Local Disability groups will be invited to voice their requirements.

A basic outline of the proposed 9v9 3G FTP is shown below:



The Football Foundation guidance states the facility would have a 73m x 46m main pitch size, and a site footprint of 84m x 58m. There will also be lighting so the facility can be used during agreed hours of darkness. More detailed plans will be published as the project progresses.

We are aware, based on feedback already received, local football clubs would ideally like to have a 11v11 3G FTP. However, the Football Foundation and Cornwall FA has recently met with these stakeholders to discuss why they would only support a funding bid for a 9v9 3G FTP in Torpoint, and to share the benefits and sustainability approach such a facility would bring to the local area.

This is an exciting time for Torpoint and Rame with a real opportunity and prospect to develop a fantastic facility for the area. An estimated £250K has already been provisionally secured from local stakeholders to help fund the pitch, with plans to raise additional funds from the wider local community to show its commitment to the project. There will be further community engagement over the coming weeks and months from the Working group and this input and feedback is critical to the application process and potential success in securing the required funding for the project.