

# CORNWALL COUNCILLOR UPDATE FOR MAY 2023



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@KateForRame



## **Cornwall Council and around the Peninsula-**

During May, Cornwall Council held our Annual General Meeting. This went as everyone expected it too, with Cllr Taylor remaining as Leader of Cornwall Council for the next municipal year. Our full council meetings can tend to be very lively, but I am pleased to report that this one was relatively drama free!

At the AGM we also discussed supporting our farmers in Cornwall through a motion to Council. This motion more reiterated policies that the Council already has in place, but I was please to support it and continue to work towards supporting farmers in our communities.

We also discussed the LGA (Local Government Association) Debate not Hate campaign, which I had proposed as a motion several months ago. This was discussed at our standards committee and brought to Full Council for approval. Many Councillors stood and spoke on this issue, telling some truly dreadful incidents of abuse and threats they and their families had received while representing their communities. I would like to be able to say that I haven't received anything of the sort, but sadly, as a woman in politics it seems par for the course. I was very grateful for the support received from the Police in my cases, and am now very glad that there will be a more robust process in place within Cornwall Council for supporting Cornwall Councillors and officers as well.

I also attended the Children's and Families Oversight and Scrutiny committee this month where we discussed and made recommendations on Early years sufficiency and SEND provision in Cornwall - two areas that are particularly close to my heart and where action is desperately needed.

## **Highways -**

I have continued to press the Portfolio holder for Transport about the cuts to funding for the A38, and am pleased to report that he is very supportive of our plea for road safety upgrades to the area. He has written to the Department for Transport to request that these vital safety upgrades are carried out with urgency. I have attached a copy of his letter for your information.

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## **Community Chest -**

I am pleased to say that my community chest grant pot is now open again for applications. I have already received quite a number of applications, and as always, my hope is that grants are spread out across the whole division. If you know of a small community group that might need a small amount of funding, please put them in touch with me.

## **No Mow May -**

As you will all be aware, Cornwall Council participates in No Mow May, while for most of the month this is entirely uncontroversial - by the end of the month we see increasing complaints and claims that this is just a cost cutting exercise. Generally, I am really supportive of allowing the verges wildflowers and grasses to grow and seed naturally as I think there are many benefits to the scheme, but I did feel the need to report several areas towards the end of the month on safety grounds, specifically around Millbrook and the Tregantle areas. Some of these have now been cut back, while others I am still arguing for this to be done. We will hopefully see these areas dealt with over the coming weeks.



Mr N Harris  
CEO

Date: 23 May 2023

Via Email: [Nick.harris@nationalhighways.co.uk](mailto:Nick.harris@nationalhighways.co.uk)

Dear Mr Harris

### **A38 Trerulefoot to Carkeel safety package**

The A38 is a key strategic route for the South East of the county and the delivery of the proposed safety measures between Trerulefoot and Carkeel are an absolute priority for the council and its residents.

Whilst we were pleased to see the outcome of the consultation carried out last year, the Transport Secretary's statement in March, and the subsequent confirmation that the scheme has now moved to delivery within RIS4 rather than RIS3 has been met with major concern both from the council and residents alike. We recognise that there was already significant frustration from local communities and the 'Safe38' campaign that measures had not yet been delivered despite long standing concerns and requests and that the consultation had further identified 2028 as the earliest that any measures would be delivered. Therefore, the subsequent announcement delaying works until 2030 and beyond is unacceptable given the significant impact the A38 has upon both the daily lives of the communities along it and the wider safety of residents and visitors to Cornwall.

Collision data on this stretch of A38 between 01/12/2013 – 30/11/2018 showed that the Killed and Seriously Injured (KSI) injury rate exceeded the national average by 250%. The latest 5-year validated collision history (01/01/2017 – 31/12/2021) shows a further 75 injury collisions (4 fatal, 16 serious and 55 slight), resulting in 6 fatal injuries, 26 serious injuries and 108 slight injuries. When reviewing this data against DfT's statistics for the 'average value of prevention per reported casualty and per reported collision', the costs associated with prevention equate to (circa) £21m, so alongside the sheer devastation left with family and friends after these tragic incidents, there is also an economic case for change. Furthermore, there have been a spate of fatal and serious collisions across Devon and Cornwall in the past few weeks, which have tragically resulted in the deaths of 10 people and has left another 57 seriously injured. Vision Zero South West have issued a plea to urge everyone to use the roads responsibly, respect other road users and leave plenty of time for any journeys that are made.

We note that the A38 safety measures package has been included within the major schemes funding; however, following the consultation the nature of the measures that have been proposed are more a series of minor works including measures such as changes to speed limits, speed cameras, signing and improvements for pedestrian movements. Considering the importance of this scheme for the local community, road safety and Cornwall as a whole, and the need for this to be delivered as soon as possible I am writing to you to ask that you reconsider whether the scheme could now be delivered as a minor works package in the same way that the safety improvements between Bodmin and Dobwalls were delivered.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Connor Donnithorne". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Cllr C Donnithorne  
Cabinet Member for Transport  
Cornwall Council

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