

CORNWALL COUNCILLOR UPDATE FOR APRIL 2024



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Cornwall Council and around the Peninsula-

The new waste collection started early in April - there have been several issues that have come to light around whole streets that have not been included in the food waste collections, and far too many residents that have not had their proper bins delivered. I am dealing with these on a case by case basis as residents contact me about them. But it is a slow and clunky process.

In terms of questions that have been raised - there is still assisted waste collections available, these are organised in the same way as they always have been through this [LINK](#) - there is a phone number on there as well for those that don't use the internet. If residents have had the wrong bins delivered they can report that [HERE](#)

Further information can be found at the following link - <https://www.cornwall.gov.uk/rubbish-recycling-and-waste/new-food-waste-recycling-and-rubbish-service/talk-to-us-face-to-face-at-a-community-roadshow/>

Roadside Verges - No Mow May changes to LOW Mow May

We are at that time of year again where there is an increase in complaints about the length of the grasses on roadside verges, usually by this point we have had numerous communications from Cornwall Council about 'No Mow May', but this year it has been very quiet. Instead of No Mow May, apparently we are doing Low Mow May, we are told that this means that roadside verges are trimmed for safety and parks and play areas are mowed but where it is safe it is left to grow for the pollinators etc. In practice, I am sure this will not please people and everyone has a view on what is safe and what is not. I would encourage folk to report any verges they feel are unsafe, or are blocking sight lines on the Cornwall Council report it tool online. Once reported, they are inspected according to the Government's safety specifications and cut if required. I know there is always a lot of strong feelings about this, but please also bear in mind that we have had a lot of rain and then a good spell of sunshine which means everything has gone a bit wild!

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Highways Reporting

I would like to remind Parish Councillors that they or and member of the public are able to report issues with the highways, or anything else that is managed by Cornwall Council. I am always happy to chase reports up if they are not actioned, or if you do not get the result you are expecting. The link to the website is <https://www.cornwall.gov.uk/report-something/>

Full Council

In April's Full Council meeting we had an interesting motion brought forward about the use of farm land for solar panels. It is a tricky balance when sitting on planning committees looking at these applications, as the National Planning Policy Framework says that agricultural land that is graded 3a and 3b can be used for solar farms - but in Cornwall a lot of our farm land is graded 3a and 3b and is versatile and used productively. We heard that only a tiny percentage of farmland in Cornwall has solar panels on it, which surprised many, and also that we wanted to support farmers that wanted to diversify on their land by installing panels. In the end, the decision was made for our farmland grading to be looked at in fine detail so that when these planning applications come to committee, local members on the planning committees can make the right decisions for Cornwall. It was a good example of the cross party work that we do on Cornwall Council, and a good example of a debate that didn't turn in to a bun fight!

CC Report for the Town Council Meeting 16th May 2024

This report covers the period 12th April to 10th May to ensure the report can be seen by all fellow town councillors with all other council papers prior to the above meeting.

Following on from last month's report:

Belle View Square: No change from previous report.

Kingsley Avenue: The actual site to date again has no forward plan. Unfortunately, the "Jury rigged" electrical cabling was again rolled out, in an even more dangerous manner at ground level, again the CHL team were quick to ensure this was removed and the resident concerned was warned again of his actions causing a possible hazard.

Harvey St Flats: Walk rounds continue to be conducted, episode of fly tipping noted earlier this week with action being taken by CHL. A discussion earlier this morning (10th May) with PC Gething explored the possibility of CCTV in the area, unfortunately CHL funds would not run to such costs so have volunteered to purchase solar powered, CCTV with an alert much the same as there are on remote agricultural buildings. PC Gething will now move this forward with CHL.

Public Pathways: Unfortunately, arborealist report reference trees skirting the Lamorna Park area which I am assured will be sent when complete along with a forward action plan has not been received, enquiries to Redrow Housing earlier this week resulted in an out of office return until Monday, 13th May, which I will follow up on Monday pm as most of working day Monday will be at Bodmin for Planning meeting. Request for an update of other PROW's which require action has still not been forthcoming and am now seriously considering escalating this.

Garages rear of Roberts Avenue: No update.

Vagrants: Visit by CC's Homelessness Team earlier this week resulted in a card being left at the den now being occupied by the old rugby club as vagrant wasn't there, although was seen by others on Fore St.. Have suggested that visits by CC departments to Torpoint should be made known either to the CC Cllr involved or the respective Town Clerk to prevent long journeys being made and valuable time lost to no effect.

Torpoint Bowls Club: , No update at time of report

Thanckes Drive – As per Bowls Club above.

Footpath behind Sidney Road bungalows Still awaiting decision, again seriously considering escalating this ongoing situation as have requested update on two occasions now with not even an acknowledgement received. Of a different status the pathway to the front of the bungalows has now had the work totally completed, with a gravel soakaway bed inserted to the bungalow side of the path held in position with timber.

Antony Road Flats 19 - 27- The residents requested an on site visit with concerns over both the cleanliness of the public areas and the rather weed strewn exterior grounds. The problem with the cleaning was not a case of a half-hearted attempt to carry out the task more the time allocated, namely 15 minutes, to carry out a full clean of the four flights of stairs, wipe down all handrails and mop all floors!!! The areas outside the flats have also not been attended recently which is self evident from the accumulation and growth of weeds. Whilst onsite, the access and egress is secured via a coded door entry system which allows the rather heavy doors to be pulled open, to expect this to be undertaken by a mostly octogenarian population of the flats whilst carrying shopping and aided by a walking stick is a feat in itself!!! Also of concern is that these doors are on emergency escape routes and all open inwards as against the current recommendation that all emergency doors

should open in the direction of travel, i.e., outwards. All points raised forwarded to Cornwall Housing for their opinion/management.

95 Antony Road Flats – The repairs to this particular property (at last) appear to have been successful. The resident has undergone the routine surgery and has been discharged home, she is now awaiting news on the move to Short Cottages which will allow No. 95 to be replastered/decorated.

Issues concerning allocation of housing to those with no Torpoint connection – Still no update on this.

Pentire Road – Both the section and gate have been re-affixed, however no more news reference the accessibility issue from Gurney Close.

Parking Meters Sainsburys Car Park – No Update.

Cornwall Councillor Community Chest Grant Scheme – This is now open for the fourth year of this council tenure, Torpoint has been granted its full allocation over the last 3 years on various projects in and around the town of £9,000:00 supplemented with a further £21,163:61 from other funds.

CC Meetings attended during this month:

Friday 19th April Bodmin Rugby Club – Presentation by Highways on Environmental issues.

Monday 22 April China Fleet Club - Tamar Bridge and Torpoint Ferry Joint Committee Financial Workshop

Various Virtual Mtgs.