

CORNWALL COUNCILLOR UPDATE FOR NOVEMBER 2024



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Cornwall Council and around the Peninsula-

Parish Council Precepts

I know that, across the division, parishes are in the midst of setting the precepts for next years council tax. I have had a number of questions about the second homes 100% Council Tax premium that will be in place from April next year, and it is a really complicated process based on the parishes tax base etc. I have spoken to Will Tarrant about this and he has kindly sent me the briefing slide pack which was presented to CALC members in November which I am sharing attached to this update. Essentially, while PCs won't see a lump sum payment as such, increases in precept will be mitigated by the rise in tax base for your parish - - meaning that, if your Parish has a significant number of second homes deemed to be eligible for the premium, full time parishioners potentially won't feel too much (or any) impact from precept rises. There is more information available at <https://www.cornwall.gov.uk/media/4xdjh3re/taxbase-2025-26.pdf> and more widely at <https://www.cornwall.gov.uk/people-and-communities/parish-and-town-councils/general-information-on-parish-and-town-councils/>

Slide 11 onwards is concerning the second homes premium, with slides 15 & 16 specifically giving illustrative examples of how the premium works in relation to the precept figure and taxbase.

Cawsand Carpark & Antony Road Carpark

I have recently been briefed by Council Officers on the proposed lease of both Cawsand Carpark and Antony Rd Carpark in Torpoint carpark over to Corserv. The reason that Cornwall Council want to do this is to increase revenue, Corserv would contract a private carpark management company to run the carparks (there are 25 across Cornwall slated in this proposal), a private company would then be able to install ANPR (Automatic number-plate recognition) in these carparks meaning that revenue will not be lost.

This has been reported today on Cornwall Live

(<https://www.cornwalllive.com/news/cornwall-news/cornwall-council-names-25-car-9763030>)

I have HUGE concerns over this proposal as I have been told that there is no guarantee that a private company will allow those Cawsand residents with residents parking permits to use the car park, equally there will be an issue with people that use the boat store accessing their boats without having to pay. There are not enough resident parking bays on the street to accommodate the cars here, and it just doesn't feel that this will be beneficial for Cawsand residents at all.

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This will go out to public consultation on the 11th December BUT it won't be a consultation on who runs the carpark, and if residents permits will be allowed but will just be a consultation on whether people have objections to Cornwall Council taking this carpark out of their order and allowing the next steps to take place.

I know residents have mentioned to me before that they believe Cawsand carpark was never Cornwall Council's in the first place, and I would be really interested to hear from anyone who knows more about this.

Once the consultation is live I will be sharing it on my social media channels so please do look out for it and encourage residents to complete it.

Adult Education in Torpoint

In another blow for the local area, we have been told that the Saltash & Torpoint Adult Education centres are slated for closure from early 2025. This is a real kick in the teeth for the wider Rame Community, and we are told it is in year spending cuts. Last year, Cornwall Council accepted a level 2 Devolution deal which included the control of the £10.2m adult education budget for Cornwall, which was previously administered by the Dept for Education (<https://www.cornwall.gov.uk/council-news/council-budgets-and-economy/council-asking-for-views-on-future-delivery-of-devolved-102-million-adult-education-budget/>). That control starts from 2025 so this seems like real short termism to alleviate budget pressures at the Council right now. As with all these things, once they are gone they are gone and it is telling that most of the harm is being felt in the East of Cornwall, far from Truro.

I have also attached the response letter from Torpoint Town Council about these proposals for your information.

Cornwall Council's Handyman Service

Another proposed cut is the Council's handyman service, which is used by many elderly and vulnerable residents, a consultation has just been launched on this - I would encourage residents to share their thoughts at <https://letstalk.cornwall.gov.uk/handyperson>

People can also request a paper copy of the survey by calling 0300 123 1118.

The consultation will close on Sunday, 12 January 2025.

Any proposed changes are likely to take place in April 2025.