

Cornwall Cllr Rob Parsonage – Torpoint Council, December 2025 Report

First, could I take this opportunity to wish everyone in Torpoint a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year, and I look forward to supporting everyone in the coming year.

Should anyone have an issue during the festive period, please feel free to call me, I will be available every day. My phone number is 07763725516.

Tamar Crossings (TAG Cost Increase) – At December's Tamar Crossings Joint Committee Meeting it was decided to increase the management fee for the Tamar TAG from £0.80 to £2.00 as costs for the TAG has not increased since 2014 and is now running at a loss. In my view, insufficient information was provided to support the way in which the fees will be increased. Therefore, I have written to the Joint Chairs to formally ask for all additional information to allow a full assessment to be made and have asked that a special meeting of the Joint Committee be held. The County Councillor for Dobwalls, Jane Pascoe has written asking for the same information and special Joint Committee meeting. The County Councillor for Looe West suggested that the fee should be increased to £5.

Torpoint Ferry reliability/availability – I committed to ascertain why we were reduced to two ferries in November. The Plym II prow repairs, from North Sea Handling inspection report 22-25 Sep 25, were delayed until early Nov 25. The delay in repairs was due to a requirement for compilation of a weld plan for Class approval and availability of appropriate materials. This work was successfully completed; however, I have raised the ongoing reduced reliability of the ferries with the Tamar Crossings MD and have asked for a meeting.

Tamar Crossings (ANPR) - A workshop to assess the feasibility of introducing ANPR at the ferry and Tamar bridge took place, and a proposal is being developed. Introduction at Torpoint would require little work as the gantries are already in place for the equipment. For Saltash, it would see removal of the toll booths. As part of the project several options for the roundabout removal are being considered and it is possible that this work may be added to the project. Funding for any road reconfiguration would require to be sourced from Central Government, not from joint councils.

From benchmarking with roads using similar ANPR systems, **it appears that the process is more costly compared to keeping the existing system.** Tamar Crossings will continue with their existing study and report back to the Committee when this is completed.

Torpoint Ferrys (Electrification) – A feasibility study has commenced to decarbonise one ferry. The funding for the study, £300k, is from a grant and does not form part of the Tamar Crossings debt. Further discussions will take place once the report has been issued.

Wall between Trengrouse Avenue to Trevol Road – Barriers have been erected along the length of wall that has been removed, for safety reasons to prevent children using it as an avenue to the pavement. Work to erect permanent barriers will take place in the New Year.

Bellevue Square (Hole) – I have again contacted Cornwall Council regarding the hole in the road as the improved safety barriers have fallen. Pressure will continue to be applied to have this longstanding issue resolved.

Macey Street – A request to have the undergrowth cleared the length of the Macey Street steps has been resubmitted and a meeting requested to discuss ongoing clearance during 2026.

Harvey Street – The Police have been steadfast in their approach to issues associated with Harvey Street and Hayley is to be commended. I have updated the Police and Crime Commissioner, Alison Hernandez, on a regular basis and she is pleased to see things moving. The Deputy Police Constable and I have agreed to get together as soon as possible to discuss the issues and longer-term way forward.

Street Lighting – I have written to the Portfolio Holder responsible for the strategy that sees street lighting switched off between 0001 and 0500, daily, detailing the concerns of residents and some members of the Town Council. As this is a Cornwall wide strategy linked primarily to ‘decarbonisation, followed by ‘light pollution???’ and finally cost saving, I am not confident that the Council strategy will change. That being said, I have drawn the parallel between the increased risk to ‘woman and girls’, a Country wide safety issue being driven by central Government, and the increased danger to woman and girls from there being no lighting across Towns and Parishes that increases the risk to predominantly women and girls in the hospitality industry or on their way home late at night. I will update the Town Council in January.

Christmas Rubbish/recycling Collections – No collections will take place on Christmas Day and Boxing Day with collections taking place on Saturday 27 Dec and on Monday 29 Dec, with normal collections on these days taking place a day later.

Open Space Leases - As part of Cornwall Councils continued and valued work between Torpoint Town Council a renewed lease is being developed for Benodet Park and Skate Park in Thanckes Park. This will bring the site into alignment with the other leases in place with Torpoint Town Council for play and open spaces across the town, including Borough Farm Play Area, Cambridge Field Recreation Ground, Chestnut Close Play Area, Thanckes Park Play Area, and Tennis Courts.

Cornwall Council's Administration – Survey on your Priorities - The Council Priorities Plan 2026-2030 outlines what the Council will focus on in the years ahead to achieve those priorities. More people need our services and at the same time the costs of delivering those services continue to rise. This Business Plan will guide the council and underpin the comprehensive review of Council spending. The council would like everyone to provide their view of their view by taking the survey using the link below.

[Our priorities for Cornwall | Let's Talk Cornwall](#)

Draft Budget (2026-2029) – The Draft Budget has been issued, and reviews will commence this week, starting on 14th and 15th December. With the Government

removing the 'Remoteness Factor' within the calculation that leads to the budget for Cornwall, it is not expected that Cornwall will see the increase that was expected. Final budget numbers from Government will not be available until late January 2026, making it a challenge to meet the deadline of late February at Full Council.

Savings in the region of £50 million is required and the Administration has identified potential areas where this will be achieved. I will be reviewing these areas and drilling down into key areas of concern over the Christmas/New Year Period.

On a positive note, Council's will know their budgets for the following two years, 2027-29, allowing more detailed planning during 2026-27, with greater confidence being achieved for ongoing programmes of work.

Direct Schools Grant (DSG) and Special Educational Needs (SEND) - Cornwall Council, like many authorities across England and Wales is under extreme financial pressure. SEND requirements means that this area of council work will go over budget by some £25 million. The council is trying to mitigate this overspend, however, the legal requirements are driving the overspend and until the Government amends the requirements, due in 2026, we are having to deal with legislation as it stands. The costs associated with this are being managed by using what is called a 'Statutory Override' where the spend is not made visible in the accounts.