

Cornwall Councillor Report - February 2026

Potholes - This January was Cornwall's wettest in recorded history, and this has meant our highways crews have been dealing with an exceptional number of issues since the start of the year. As well as making roads safe from fallen branches and trees, they are repairing over 340 potholes each day. Latest figures show there are now more than 4,500 potholes reported across the whole of Cornwall, although some of these may well be duplicate reports.

However, the continuous rainfall makes it more challenging to undertake long-lasting repairs, meaning that inevitably some will be temporary while the Council work to clear the backlog, our teams will return to apply durable, permanent solutions.

Using the online map, could Residents please check to see if a pothole has already been reported, as duplications of reported issues can cost time. Please use the following link to report a new pothole on our website at <https://www.cornwall.gov.uk/transport-parking-and-streets/roads-highways-and-pavements/report-a-problem-with-a-road-or-pavement/potholes/#report>

Tamar Crossings (Torpoint Office) - Tamar crossings are seeking residents feedback regarding changes to the Torpoint Customer Service Office. No decision has been made on the service to be provided; Tamar Crossings are looking for views as per the attachment. Suggestions could include scheduled attendance by a member of Tamar Crossings staff once a week, at the Library or Council Offices, for example. Please check the Tamar Crossings website and reply to enquires@tamarcrossings.org.uk

Tamar Crossings (TAG Fee increase) – Development of the Public Consultation requirements, Economic Assessment for the proposed options for open road tolling are well advanced and further information will be made available for the March Joint Committee meeting.

CHIP – Submissions are now being developed and the Councillor Proposal is for reconfiguration of the parking at the front of St James church. This proposal will see adoption of a similar scheme to that successfully adopted in Bodmin. Cars will park parallel to the church entrance and emergency exit, with a time limit set specifically for the main entrance. Cornwall Council bollards will be inserted to prevent parking on the kerb to ensure the emergency exit is not compromised, as it is now. The Town Council's proposal is awaited.

Thanckes Carpark – On behalf of all Torpoint residents, I wrote to the Portfolio Holder (Transport), Dan Rogerson, reinforcing everyone's view that charging for parking at Thanckes carpark would be detrimental to the area with the potential for causing friction between residents as people park in nearby residential streets etc. See attachment.

YMCA Closure – During my Councillor Surgery in the Library a large contingent of residents attended to voice their concerns about the forthcoming closure of the YMCA facility. Over forty-five residents attended the meeting, with many more emailing or leaving messages saying they wished to attend but could not do so due to work or other commitments. The strength of feeling was electric, with stories of how the staff and facility had changed their lives forever. Examples included the following:

- Simon said, I was four stone overweight and had poor mental health, I have lost over 3.5 tone and the difference to my mental health is amazing.
- A Veteran, with the support of Joe who delivers courses and training said, I am now halfway through my training course to become qualified, and it is thanks to the staff that I am doing so well.
- Another lady said, I could walk limited distances and now I am about to run a half marathon. Without the YMCA and Joe, I would not be where I am today.

The key point of these messages was that the YMCA and the staff are one of the beating hearts that makes Torpoint what it is today, much like the Torpoint town library does, and we cannot afford to lose this facility or staff.

Following discussions, it was agreed that another meeting was required on the 21st of Feb when more information would be available, venue to be confirmed.

I have asked to meet with Plymouth YMCA's CEO to gain a better understanding of their way forward and the issues that resulted in their decision.

Road flooding issues and existing highway issues – List of road flooding issues, appearance of potholes and outstanding works has been compiled, and I will be discussing these with Highways in the coming days. Ongoing historic issues such as Bellevue Square will receive particular attention.

CABINET

Street Lighting – This was raised at Cabinet of Friday 13th February where I stated that switching off lighting between midnight and 5am was problematic as people were returning home in the dark and were worried for their safety, especially women. I outlined emails I had received from a resident who stated, 'I am walking home, it is 2am, my friend is walking home to any we are talking to one another to be safe, hopefully I will get home without being attacked.' It was emphasised that the Police had raised concerns also as without street lighting their efforts to use cameras to catch criminal action were being compromised.

Further, I asked if the poor Q3 performance associated with 'Residents Feeling Safe' was attributed to switching off lighting.

The Leader of Cornwall Council, Cllr Frost said that contacting the responsible officer with a justification to switch the lights on for a particular route should see the lights restored at a reduced setting.

Increase in Council Rents – The Administration is proposing to increase Council rents by CP plus 1%. I challenged this stating that such an increase could not be justified during a cost-of-living crisis, especially when nurses had only been given a 3.3% increase. The Administration justified the increase by stating Cornwall's rents were well below those of other councils and the private sector.

Bus Passes – The Conservatives, lead by Connor Donnithorn, has convinced the Council Administration to drop a proposal to restrict the 24/7 free bus pass for pensioners and the disabled rather than bringing Cornwall in line with the statutory English National Concessionary Travel Scheme. This is a significant win for residents of Cornwall.

Torpoint Customer Service Office – Proposed Changes and Customer Feedback

Following our recent changes to opening hours at the Torpoint Customer Service Office, we would like to let customers know that we are now proposing further reductions to the opening hours of the Torpoint Ferry office.

We currently see very low in-person usage, and the vast majority of customer needs can now be quickly and easily supported online, by email or over the phone. Reducing opening hours will allow us to be more cost effective and use our resources more efficiently, which in turn would have a direct positive impact for all users of Tamar Crossings by helping us focus investment on maintaining and improving our services.

We want your feedback before any decision is made

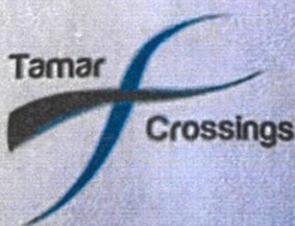
Whilst we believe that there is an overall benefit for users and the service, no final decision has been taken. We are inviting customers to share their views on the proposed changes before we move forward. We would like to hear:

- How this change would impact you
- Whether you support or oppose the reduced opening hours
- If there are any specific concerns you would like us to consider

Please share your feedback before Friday 27 February:

Email: enquiries@tamarcrossings.org.uk

Post: 2 Ferry Street, Torpoint, Cornwall, PL11 2AX



SCAN FOR MORE INFO

