

*Agenda 4*

## **COUNCILLOR ROB PARSONAGE**

### **APRIL MONTHLY REPORT**

#### **TAMER CROSSINGS**

The Public Consultation on the Tamar TAG fee and wider options for funding the Tamar Crossings is complete and is in assessment before issuing to the Joint Committee and public for the June Joint Committee meeting.

Several letters issued by the Tamar Crossings Action Group, MP's Gelderd, Thomas and Pollard, and a response from Tamar Crossings Chief Officer have been circulated on Facebook but not on many Community websites. The general theme being that the crossings should be free, or worst case that the ferry should be self-funded and not supported by the Bridge. Such a model would see a significant increase in ferry fees and this option cannot be supported.

I asked that all MP's who could be impacted by changes to Tamar Crossings be involved in the discussions, including the MP for Torridge and Tavistock, however, the response by the Joint Chairs was to ask me to liaise with the rather than the Committee adding the MP to the stakeholder panel.

Financially, I asked several questions regarding the forecast model. One such challenge is where it is assumed the number of Tamar Crossings flatlines from now in perpetuity. Given the increase in crossings over the previous years, new housing estates being built in Saltash and potentially Torpoint, this is not realistic. It drives a model that sees reserves depleted at a faster rate. The same model was used during the last Conservative Cornwall Council Administration, and this has been proven to be incorrect.

The options assessment for decarbonisation of a ferry is due to be presented at the June or September Joint Committee meeting. This estimated £3million work package would see a ferry taken out of service for a protracted period, increase Tamar Crossings debt and subsequent repayments, which may then impact crossing charges. Introduction of ANPR, a £10M -£12 million project, while improving crossing times will have a similar impact on the cost of crossing the Tamar.

I will continue to challenge the status quo at the Joint Council and attempt to bring modern practices to the Joint Committee.

#### **STREET LIGHTING**

The previous Cornwall Council Administration agreed the strategy for street lighting that saw lighting switched off across Cornwall between the hours of midnight and 0500. A Freedom of Information (FOI) request has uncovered that the Council Decision Wheel

had shown safety to people had been assessed as 'RED', requiring clear mitigation measures to be put in place to bring the safety issue to 'GREEN', it appears mitigation measures were minimal and no reassessment was conducted.

Another aspect uncovered from the FOI request was that certain towns and cities in Cornwall were granted a dispensation to have lighting remain on overnight at weekends (Fri-Sun), Torpoint and Saltash were not included on the list. Given our proximity to Plymouth as a major place of work and social entertainment it would have been logical to include both towns on the original list, much like Truro, Helston, Penzance etc. A formal request will be made for Torpoint and Saltash to be added to the list while Councillors fight to overturn the previous Administrations strategy of having lights turned off across Cornwall. This will not happen overnight, please excuse the pun, and we would ask that you bear with us as we unpick this significant work package.

Cornwall Councillors are formulating a strategy to challenge the decarbonisation strategy based on the following:

- It is directly impacting businesses turnover in hospitality as residents, mainly women, wish to be home before lights go out;
- Police safety concerns as resident's door cameras become less effective with criminals able to disappear into the darkness;
- For Torpoint and Saltash, our main hub is Plymouth for police, hospital, and social aspects; and,
- Limited success in having Officers approving lighting being turned back on for safety reasons.

## **CAR PARKING**

It is proposed that the Sainsbury car park remains as cash and card while the Library and Thanckes car parks will be moved to card payment only. Also, a revised car parking penalty strategy is proposed but details are currently unavailable. I will be challenging why this and the changes to free car parking were not rolled out as a package. Further details will be provided to residents as information becomes available.

## **PUBLIC CONSULTATIONS**

**Belonging in Cornwall** -9 April to 6 May 2026: Cornwall Council has developed a Draft Belonging in Cornwall strategy, and we really want your feedback.

The strategy commits sets out plans for a fair and inclusive Cornwall where everyone feels welcome and that they belong. It helps us meet the requirements of the Equality Act 2010. It includes how we will work with organisations and communities, leading by example to promote our values of fairness, ambition, inclusion, and respect. Also, it

includes improving how people access our buildings, services, and our information and about Cornwall Council being a fair and inclusive place to work.

Topics being progressed during the first year include:

- Making sure we follow the Equality Act 2010, as confirmed by the Supreme Court ruling on the definition of sex.
- Conduct accessibility audits on our buildings.
- Updating our reasonable adjustments policies.
- Consider how we can increase our use of British Sign Language.
- Continuing our work on the Faith Covenant for Cornwall.
- Developing a toolkit to support trans colleagues and their managers.
- Consider how we ensure recruitment processes more inclusive.
- Sharing what we do with other organisations.

The Public Consultation can be accessed at [Belonging in Cornwall | Let's Talk Cornwall](#).

Consultation closes 6 May 2026.