

CORNWALL COUNCILLOR UPDATE FOR APRIL 2026



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Cornwall Council

Firstly, let me thank everyone for the fantastic support I received while I was away from work due to surgery. I am incredibly grateful for the cards, messages, flowers and well wishes I received. I am really delighted to say that the surgery seems to have been super successful and I am well on the road to recovery and back in the saddle!

I came back to work midway through April, so this will be a shorter report than usual, but a lot seems to have happened just in those two short weeks!

Firstly, I was back with a bump and straight into Full Council, where we heard a motion on the reintroduction of glyphosates to deal with weeds in Cornwall. Now, I do understand why Cornwall Council have reached for this as an easy solution to the weed problem - there is no arguing that in some places weeds are causing damage to pavements, kerbs and highways and the council has not had the budgets since 2010 to manually remove these across the thousands of miles of roads that it has to manage and maintain. I spoke in the chamber on this motion, as I was appalled at the process that was followed for this reintroduction. Giving town and parish councils a few weeks over the Easter holidays to decide whether they could manage themselves, was unbelievable. Budgets for local councils were set around Christmas time, this needed far more consultation and cooperative working.

I am glad the motion was supported and this policy has now been paused by the administration of the council, for proper consultation with stakeholders, including some actual detail on what is expected.

At the same Full Council meeting, I was pleased to work with Cllr James Mustoe to introduce a motion to look at the antiquated schools admissions policy. Our advisory motion passed with overwhelming cross party support.

The current admissions policy is really unfair for families in remote and rural communities, in this area it impacts on families in the St Germans and Polbathic area who have to pay for their kids bus passes if they choose Looe School, while other children travel on the same bus for free when they live very close to each other. We simply asked for the policy on designated schools to be reviewed to try and iron out these anomalies. We were really pleased that the transport cabinet member has committed to a review and we will be working with him and officers to make sure this happens in a timely manner!

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Continued:

The CHIP scheme, otherwise known as the Highways scheme has moved onto the next stage of planning. Most of the schemes that were put forward are onto the next stage, which will look more deeply at deliverability and costings in greater depth. Unfortunately, the scheme put forward by Torpoint TC was deemed undeliverable so has fallen. But all other schemes will be going for final decision in June.

We will be seeing a tranche of road resurfacing along the A3874 other the next month, this started on 5th May just outside Polbathic, and when I have dates for other areas I will, of course, share them.

Torpoint Ferry

Like many of you, I have been caught in the Torpoint ferry queues while we are down a ferry. I am pleased they decided to put on the second ferry during rush hours, but the communications from the bridge and ferry hasn't been great to the wider public, I am grateful to Torpoint TC for raising this. I wrote to the ferry manager and received this update:

In relation to the out of service ferry, works are ongoing with our engineering teams. We are currently awaiting the key part from the supplier, and as soon as this is received and our technical team can confirm firm timelines, we will ensure updates are shared via our social media channels and website. I appreciate the concern as we move towards a busier period, and we are focused on returning the vessel to service safely and as promptly as possible.

I will keep an eye on this and share more information when I receive it.

On a final note, I was delighted to pop along to the opening of the new community shop in Crafhole, it is now in the village hall so has parking available - I hugely recommend you all popping in if you are passing!

It has been great to start getting back out to your monthly meetings this last few weeks, and I hope to catch up with you all in person soon.