

Report to Torpoint Residents

June 2026

My Council Roles

During my first year, I have served on a number of committees and working groups.

Corporate Finance and Performance Overview and Scrutiny Committee

I attended this month's Committee meeting where we discussed a key issue concerning how budgets were monitored and developed for future years. The Council's proposal to remove a key Scrutiny Committee was not accepted and Officers were asked to revisit their proposal and to ensure that one key requirement was maintained, that of the public being able to view committee thus ensuring transparency for the public. Both the Chairman and I strongly opposed the revised strategy.

The Committee also reviewed financial performance of the Council. The main points were that the council had overspent by some £7.4 million and it was reported that stronger monitoring would be implemented for the coming financial year. As expected, SEND provision was a major contributor to the financial challenges of the council, although the help from government has aided in Cornwall Council experiencing a major financial episode.

Cabinet

A meeting of the Cabinet took place yesterday, 17th June, where several issues were debated.

Financial Performance 2025/26 – I asked the Leader and CEO how they were going to improve council performance as they had only achieved 50% of their Key Performance Indicators that are used to act as drivers to ensure the council delivers on its commitments. Revised monitoring arrangements are now going to be implemented, and these will be conducted monthly.

Maintaining our reserves and knowing what reserves are is vital given the problems being experienced with SEND provision and I asked what our reserves were given the report stated we would know the status of the reserves 3 months after year-end. This is now being revisited.

The performance of the council's Arm's Length Companies continues to be a concern, and I had to correct the Portfolio Holder for Economic Development when he discussed the exemplary performance of Treveth, Cornwall councils house building company.

Working for Residents

A number of concerns have been raised regarding both the new cemetery and Horson cemetery with the main issues being cutting of the grass and the lack of a water supply. I am

pleased to report to residents that this issue, that started before my time is rapidly coming to an end. At a meeting held today, 18th June, the issue is fully understood.

- The water supply comes leads from Horson Straight through the wooded area to the cemetery;
- Southwest Water (SWW) had disconnected and capped the pipework without informing Cornwall Council;
- Cornwall Council knows roughly where the leak is and will conduct an internal survey of the pipework to find all damaged sections, based on the findings will develop the business case to rectify/ replace the pipework and recommission the system

In the meantime, the Cormac is looking to fit a water butt with connection to the gutter drain pipework from the Chapel to ensure a source of water is always available.

Cormac is only contracted to cut the cemetery twice a year, however, where graves are regularly accessed, they will cut the grass every 4 weeks.

Tamar Crossings

The next meeting of the Tamar Crossing Joint Committee takes place next week and an update will be issued to the community after the meeting.

The agenda includes:

- Tamar Tag Fee Increase Proposal Consultation
- Financial Performance 2025/26; and,
- Budget Monitoring Report 2026/27

Street Lighting

Like everyone else, I was very pleased that the teamwork between myself when I identified the original street lighting strategy, and Torpoint Town Council, resulted in a positive outcome. This achieves Phase 1 of the project to have all lighting returned to normal, albeit with reduced illumination. Next week will see a survey issued asking all residents in Torpoint to provide their views on the street lighting strategy and way forward. Could I ask everyone to take the time to complete the survey as the more information that is gathered, the more robust the argument is to return lighting to normal.

Torpoint Community College and YMCA

The announcement of an extension to the 19 June deadline for the contract for the 3G pitch is welcomed, and I look forward to hearing continued positive progress in the coming weeks and months.

Looking Ahead

St James Church The strategy to address the long-term parking issues have been agreed and implementation will take place this year. A meeting to finalise this work is scheduled at which point a date for implementation will be agreed.

Bellview Square The Council has confirmed it is pressurising Wildanet to provide the funding to resolve this long-standing issue. We have agreed I will write to Wildanet separately to increase the pressure on them to release the necessary funding for the work to progress.

Cllr Robert Parsonage
Cornwall Councillor for Torpoint