

CORNWALL COUNCILLOR UPDATE FOR JUNE 2026



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Cornwall Council - Cornwall Local Plan and Neighbourhood Statements

With the current Cornwall Local Plan set to run until 2030, attention is increasingly turning to what comes next. As we look ahead to a new phase of planning across Cornwall, now is a crucial time for communities to reflect on what matters most to them, and to ensure their voices are clearly heard. Cornwall Council are currently planning and writing the Local Plan that will run from 2030 through to 2050, and one of the most effective ways for local parishes to influence what happens in their communities is by writing a Neighbourhood Priority Statement (NPS)

The Cornwall Local Plan has played a central role in guiding development across Cornwall, balancing the need for housing, jobs, infrastructure, and environmental protection. But as we approach 2030, a new plan will need to respond to emerging challenges, including:

- Housing affordability and local need
- Climate change and environmental resilience
- Infrastructure pressures
- Protecting Cornwall's unique character, history and landscapes

This is where Neighbour Priority Statements could come into their own.

What is a Neighbour Priority Statement?

A Neighbour Priority Statement is a community-led document that sets out the key issues, concerns, and aspirations of local residents. They can provide a clear vision of what communities need, and what they want to see protected, improved, or changed.

Importantly, they can allow communities to engage with planning without the complexity of producing a full neighbourhood plan that can take many years to develop and publish.

Not every parish or town council has the resources to develop a full neighbourhood plan. Neighbour Priority Statements provide a simpler, faster alternative, enabling more communities across Cornwall to get involved in shaping the future. As pressure grows to deliver housing and infrastructure, NPS documents help guide development in a way that is locally appropriate, sustainable, and sensitive to place.

Neighbour Priority Statements can help communities across Cornwall to:

- Highlight the need for affordable homes for local people
- Protect valued green spaces, heritage, and landscapes
- Advocate for better transport links and local services
- Shape how growth is delivered in their area

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Crucially, they help shift the conversation from development being something that happens to communities, to something shaped by them.

I know there will be folk who are concerned about changes like this, but it is important to point out that the Cornwall Local Plan was always meant to run out in 2030, and the planning for the new one has been underway for a long time, NPS's were first legislated for in 2023.

At our recent Rame Cluster meeting, we had a presentation from an officer about the Neighbourhood Priority statement, and we will be meeting again later this month to discuss how the parishes wish to move forward with this. Looking at what parts of the NDP (that also only runs until 2030) are working and want to be kept and what, if anything, we want to change.

Torpoint Ferry Toilets:

I wrote to the Tamar Crossings recently about the lack of toilets on the ferry, they have had to close the toilets because they were discharging the waste directly into the river. Quite extraordinary that this was the case for so long, but we are where we are. I asked specifically if the mothballed toilets could be reopened so there is at least facilities on both sides of the river, this is especially important if there are long waits. They have told me that they are looking into this and seeing if it is feasible, but in the mean time they are also looking into solutions to the onboard toilets and have provided portaloos.

The Joint Committee recently met and voted again on increasing the tag admin fee to £2, fortunately this time they decided to vote against increasing the tag fee and have asked officers to look again at how else they can raise funds. I will keep watching this.

Grass

Cormac are now in the process of their "early summer" cut on the grass verges. They currently cut twice a year as standard, this has been the case for many years. They cut in early summer (June/July) and then again in the Autumn (Sept/Oct). Some Parishes do extra cuts, but some choose not too. Every year this becomes incredibly contentious, with strongly held views on either side of the argument, this year it seems to have got even more heated and that is a real shame to see.

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Highways Matters

The CHIP will be voted on in July to see which of the schemes put forward by the parishes will go ahead. I am hopeful that the schemes put forward in this area will be successful and will be doing my best to support them.

Traffic across the Rame Peninsula has been quite extreme, with events happening, coinciding with the building work for the affordable housing that is being delivered and, very sadly, an accident that resulted in a road closure.

I have been speaking extensively with the management team for the new houses and have asked them to look again at their traffic management plan and use the cliff road instead of Hounster Hill to bring big vehicles in. They have assured me they are relooking and will report back this week which I hope will help with the congestion.

Finally, the Tideford pedestrian crossing will be started in the first week of September. It is a long build, because the road can only be closed for short periods over night, but by the time we are into winter we should have a safe crossing in Tideford, ending the severance of the village at last.