

CORNWALL COUNCILLOR UPDATE FOR JUNE 2026



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Cornwall Council - Rame Cluster

I was pleased to hold an extra meeting of the Rame Cluster of Parishes recently, where we talked in more detail about the Neighbourhood Priority Statements. I am sure your Chair's will update you all as well. There is more information available on the Cornwall Council website about this, and I am arranging a meeting with a Parish Council further down in Cornwall who have done both an NDP and an NPS so we can gather a bit more information.

<https://www.cornwall.gov.uk/planning-and-building-control/neighbourhood-planning/neighbourhood-priorities-statements-pilot/>

Wildfire Risk

My greatest concern at the moment is around the risk of wildfires across our area, not just from verges but open green spaces, particularly those that are right next to people's homes. I have raised this with the Deputy Chief Fire Officer for Cornwall Fire and Rescue and with the Chief Exec of Cornwall Council as well. Currently there is not guidance about what fire breaks should look like, but I am hoping that this will change as a result of these conversations. I was also pleased to visit Torpoint Fire Station to speak to the crew there about what they are doing to help in our communities as well. They have their annual open day on the 15th August, and I know they would welcome people coming along to the station to discuss any concerns that they have.

I understand that the areas of grass meadows that are on Cornwall Council land are due to be cut and collected in the next few weeks, which will be welcome as we are now well into August.

Community Highways Scheme

The date for the decision making has been pushed back another month, so for now we are looking at the middle of August for decisions on this round of the scheme. I understand that this is due to the amount of schemes submitted and the time it is taking to price and rate the proposals. I will update those Parishes that still have schemes in the pipeline. I am hopeful that all the schemes that are still in will be funded.

Fridge and Freezer Recycling

There is, apparently, a national issue with fridge and freezer recycling at the moment which means CC sites can not take them. I am copying (on the next page) these advice received:

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Continued:

"We've been advised of a national issue affecting fridge and freezer recycling across the UK. Due to a combination of increased numbers of fridges and freezers being disposed of during the summer months and technical issues at several recycling facilities, there's currently insufficient capacity within the national recycling network.

As a result, our recycling partner has instructed that all collections of waste cooling appliances from Cornwall must be suspended for a minimum of two weeks.

This will affect:

- *Fridge and freezer deposits at Household Waste and Recycling Centres (HWRCs)*
- *Bulky waste collections containing fridges or freezers*
- *Any other Council collection routes for waste cooling appliances*

As this is a national issue affecting recycling facilities across the country, we are unable to signpost residents to alternative recycling or disposal options at this time. We'll be updating the relevant webpages, including the HWRC pages and Recycling A-Z, the Contact Centre and key stakeholders to help ensure residents receive clear and consistent information. We will also share updates through the Council's social media channels."

When I asked for advice over what residents should do, I was told they should keep them on their properties or arrange collection through the company delivering their new one. I don't think this is satisfactory, but it seems there is nothing else that can be done at the moment. They expect this to be resolved in the coming weeks.

Festival Season

With local festivals taking place across Cornwall at the moment, I am aware that not everyone is supportive of these for a number of reasons. I have been speaking with the organisers of the ones locally and have been feeding back any concerns and issues that are raised with me as they happen. The most recent festival in St Germans, Wild Gardens, is a good example of this. While the majority of people that have been in touch, are supportive of the festivals, it is important to me that all voices are heard. The next big festival is Tunes in the Park at the end of the month and I am in the process of arranging a public meeting in St Germans so that we can hear directly from the organisers how they will respond to the issues raised.