

Milly Southworth

From: Torpoint Town Council <admin@torpointtowncouncil.gov.uk>
Sent: 24 July 2026 12:12
To: Julie Martin; Milly Southworth
Cc: Phil Griffiths
Subject: FW: Protect housing from grass wildfires (Case Ref: AG21588)

See email trail below for reference.

Harriet Bastin

Torpoint Town Council Support Officer / Assistant to the Town Clerk & RFO

p. [01752 814165](tel:01752814165)

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a. 1-3 Buller Road Torpoint Cornwall PL11 2LD



From: Anna Gelderd MP <Anna.gelderd.mp@parliament.uk>
Sent: 24 July 2026 11:56
To: jbm1878@gmail.com; cllr.kate.ewert@cornwall.gov.uk
Cc: jacqui.reeves@torpointtowncouncil.gov.uk; admin@torpointtowncouncil.gov.uk
Subject: Re: Protect housing from grass wildfires (Case Ref: AG21588)

Dear Mr Miller

Thank you for your email and for providing the detailed information and photographic evidence regarding your concerns about grassland maintenance and fire safety in Torpoint.

I appreciate you bringing these matters to my attention. I have noted that Cllr Kate Ewert is raising these concerns with Cornwall Council, and I welcome the council's consideration of the issues you have highlighted.

Thank you again for taking the time to contact me.

Best wishes

Anna Gelderd MP

Member of Parliament for South East Cornwall

Email: anna.gelderd.mp@parliament.uk

Website: www.annagelderdmp.com

Facebook: www.facebook.com/Anna4SECornwall

Instagram: [@AnnaGelderd](https://www.instagram.com/AnnaGelderd)

BlueSky: [@annagelderdmp](https://bsky.app/profile/annagelderdmp)

From: JBM <JBM@torpointtowncouncil.gov.uk>

Sent: 24 July 2026 09:19

To: cllr.kate.ewert@cornwall.gov.uk

Cc: anna.gelderd.mp@parliament.uk, jacqui.reeves@torpointtowncouncil.gov.uk,
admin@torpointtowncouncil.gov.uk

Subject: Re: Protect housing from grass wildfires

Hi Kate,

Thanks for the info and support.

We need some urgent action from the council, probably as do other areas of Cornwall.

Thanks

Sent from my iPhone

Barrie Miller

Address - PL11 2NA - No 28

~~07999999999~~

On 24 Jul 2026, at 08:57, Councillor Kate Ewert <cllr.kate.ewert@cornwall.gov.uk> wrote:

Information Classification: PUBLIC

Dear Barrie

Thank you for this, I am really concerned about Sycamore and the grass there and have already raised this with Cornwall Highways Landscaping as a fire risk. I have been told there are "internal conversations" happening about the risk of wildfire. I am not in the least content with this response and have made that very clear. While I am glad conversations are ongoing, I want to see action in this area where the grasses are so close to people's homes. As I think I have said to you before, my mum lives on that estate as well so I see it very regularly and am keenly aware of it.

The more detailed points you raised are helpful, I will raise these specifically with them directly for a detailed response and will report back as soon as I am able.

I am also in touch with the Chief Fire Officer for Cornwall about this issue as well

[Embedded Image]

Cllr Kate Ewert
Cornwall Councillor for Rame & St Germans
Labour & Cooperative Group Leader
Tel: 07551590118
F: @CllrKateEwert

From: jacqui.reeves@torpointtowncouncil.gov.uk

Sent: 23 July 2026 21:15

To: 'Anna Gelderd MP' <Anna.gelderderd.mp@parliament.uk>; Councillor Kate Ewert <cllr.kate.ewert@cornwall.gov.uk>

Cc: jacqui.reeves@torpointtowncouncil.gov.uk; admin@torpointtowncouncil.gov.uk

Subject: Protect housing from grass wildfires

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Hi Anna & Kate,

As you are my current MP (Anna Gelderd) and my local councillor (Kate Ewert), I am writing to you both on an urgent matter of Health & Safety, which I have also copied in Torpoint Council. It covers not only property, but persons that live in the properties, especially if fires were to breakout at night when people are sleeping.

As of Tuesday 21 July 2026, I believe that Cornwall Council have a clear disregard for UK Fire and Rescue Services recommendations (please see below), for the area I live in Torpoint, although I believe the same is happening in other areas throughout Torpoint and the County in general.

I have only concerned my evidence in photos of the locations close to my house, and it would be up to yourselves to investigate other areas within Torpoint and Cornwall in a wider investigation to see if the UK Fire and Rescue Services recommendations are being adhered to!

Attached Photographic evidence of:

1. Borough Farm (Play Park Area) – This is where the UK Fire and Rescue Services recommendations are clearly in play and an area that is kept well.
2. Sycamore Drive & Maple Ave (2 Areas) – a. On the entrance to Sycamore Drive and b. on the area at the start of Maple Ave (which I believe houses a local power unit).

Under the UK Fire and Rescue Services recommend creating defensible zones and strict ignition bans near council grassland. To protect housing from grass and wildfires, authorities advise:

* Implement Fire Breaks: Councils should clear 2 to 3-metre strips of land between long, dry grass and property boundaries, not to be confused with the outer walls of a property.

* Keep Grass Short: Grass on council land should be maintained at a height under 7 cm to reduce flame height and slow fire spread.

* Ban Open Flames & BBQs: Fire services strictly advise against campfires or disposable barbecues in public open spaces during dry weather.

* Remove Combustibles: Any illegally dumped rubbish, dry leaves, or debris on the boundary should be cleared as these act as fuel. This includes grass cuttings if & when the grassed areas are cut.

The Cornwall Council Fire Safety Outdoors <https://www.cornwall.gov.uk/fire-and-rescue-service/keeping-safe/fire-safety/fire-safety-outdoors/wild-fires/> guidance for specific preventative measures and outdoor fire safety regulations in your area only refer to guidance in the link towards residents or visitors using the countryside and the rules they should uphold, they do not relate to the rules that Cornwall Council should be following and upholding under UK Fire and Rescue Services recommendations.

Fires in the countryside can easily be started accidentally, or deliberately, a carelessly discarded cigarette or broken glass can lead to a huge fire, where the results can be devastating for local residents when councils do not follow the recommendations of the UK Fire and Rescue Services to keep residents safe.

Can you please confirm if Cornwall Council have:

1. Adopted the UK Fire and Rescue Services recommendations for creating defensible zones (2 to 3-metre strips of land between long, dry grass and property boundaries) on or near council grassland?
 - a. If they have why are the grasslands not cut & cleared in accordance with the regulations?
 - b. If not, why not?
2. If both of you would pay a visit to the area with a senior Cornwall Fire and Rescue Services Officer to confirm if the areas, I have highlighted (and possibly the wider area of Torpoint) the areas I feel should be covered by the above recommendations?
 - a. If the areas are then to be covered, the timescale for when the areas will be cut and debris (Cuttings) cleared, or
 - b. If not confirm to all residents why this decision has been taken?
 - c. If the wider area of Torpoint was to be covered by the UK Fire and Rescue Services recommendations, then surely this should be done in consultation with the Town Council while developing community risk plans for the whole area?
3. If Cornwall Council should be maintaining grassland at a height under 7 cm to reduce flame height and slow fire spread?
 - a. If they should be maintaining the grasslands, why are they not cut & cleared in accordance with the regulations?
 - b. If not, why not?
4. Why, when Cornwall Council do actually cut the grasslands (Sycamore Drive & Maple Ave) do they only cut 12" around the edges (and a path through the grass at the Sycamore entrance - Sycamore Drive 04 photo) and even then, do not clear the debris on the areas they have cut?
5. Can you explain why Borough Farm (Play Park Area) is kept cut as a total area, not just 2 to 3-metre strips between long, dry grass and property boundaries, kept at a height under 7 cm and clear of the debris (cuttings) on the areas? If one area can be kept to the UK Fire and Rescue Services recommendations, then why are some areas classed as to be 'unprotected housing from grass wildfires'?
6. As there is a local Power distribution (I think that it what it is - Maple Ave 03 photo), if this area was to ignite, I fear that it could cause an explosion endangering life & not only would housing be damaged but power to the local area could be compromised indefinitely.

I would be grateful if you could give this your urgent attention and report back as soon as possible.

Yours sincerely

(John) Barrie Miller - MIIRSM

28 Sycamore Drive, Torpoint, Cornwall, PL11 2NA

[Embedded Image]: 

[Embedded Image]: jb1878@gmail.com

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