

CORNWALL COUNCILLOR UPDATE FOR MARCH 2023



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Cornwall Council and around the Peninsula–

Social Housing Decarbonisation Fund

I have been absolutely delighted to finally be able to announce that Cornwall Housing homes within the villages of Kingsand, Cawsand and Millbrook have been included in the funding awarded to be properly retrofitted. Measures, that should be starting later this year, will include solar panels on Council homes, full loft and wall insulation and new energy efficient boilers and lighting. We also expect to see overdue maintenance picked up during this process. This is something I have campaigned for since joining the Council as I was keenly aware that the partial upgrades done over the past 5 years, which has been the installing of Air Source Heat Pumps without the addition of proper insulation etc haven't been adequate and have, in many cases, caused extremely high energy costs for tenants. This scheme should ensure that residents in these properties will have warmer, drier homes next winter that cost a much lower amount to heat. I will continue to lobby for this to be rolled out to all Council homes and will continue to press the housing associations to look at similar schemes.

There is a similar scheme for properties that are privately owned or rented that residents can apply for, the criteria is that the households must have an income of under £31,000 and that the property has an energy rating of D or below and isn't on the main gas network. You can find out more here

<https://www.cornwall.gov.uk/health-and-social-care/public-health/public-health-campaigns/winter-wellbeing/grants-loans-and-subsidies-for-energy-use/#Sustainable%20Warmth%20Fund>

And here:

https://www.cornwall.gov.uk/council-news/communities-and-housing/more-than-1-200-cornish-homes-to-get-energy-saving-upgrades/?fbclid=IwAR30yDN436c60-M2_Le33vaqUj7k2sh71vkPtMEIoA9Yn5tzEg6AdR1IK2w

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Deal for Cornwall

We have recently received the news that Cornwall Council Cabinet have finally listened to the people of Cornwall, and have decided to reject the unpopular Deal for Cornwall, that insisted on a Mayor for Cornwall as part of the deal. I am pleased that common sense has prevailed here and I look forward to seeing what the new Level 2 Devolution Deal for Cornwall looks like.

Highways Scheme

The Community Network Panel Highways scheme has now decided on how to spend its allocation of funding for the Cornwall Gateway area. The original 5 Parishes of the Rame Peninsula area (St John, Antony, Millbrook, MwR and Shevioc) have historically been quite short-changed in this scheme so I was really pleased to support our Parishes with their schemes for this cycle. We have received approval for funding on several schemes, some of which have already been carried out and some which have to be designed and go out to consultation. We should see designs and consultation for a safer crossing area on St Johns Rd in Millbrook, for improvements around Furlanesend School in MwR, for a reduction of the speed limit through Wilcove Village and for a one-way system past Antony School as well. St Germans PC area received funding for improved signage for pedestrians for the hill from Polbathic to St Germans, St John PC received new signage along Military Road for Freathy and Shevioc PC have had a change to their speed bumps and road markings. The Crafhole speedbumps are something I am working with the PC and Highways to seek a solution too as I understand residents aren't happy with the highways specified installation.

Dates for Diaries

With the change over from the Community Network Panels to the much larger Community Area Partnerships we, as yet, do not have a date or a format for what the new meetings will look like. I will endeavour to get information for the next update that I send out.