

CORNWALL COUNCILLOR UPDATE FOR MAY 2023



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Cornwall Council and around the Peninsula-

During May, Cornwall Council held our Annual General Meeting. This went as everyone expected it too, with Cllr Taylor remaining as Leader of Cornwall Council for the next municipal year. Our full council meetings can tend to be very lively, but I am pleased to report that this one was relatively drama free!

At the AGM we also discussed supporting our farmers in Cornwall through a motion to Council. This motion more reiterated policies that the Council already has in place, but I was please to support it and continue to work towards supporting farmers in our communities.

We also discussed the LGA (Local Government Association) Debate not Hate campaign, which I had proposed as a motion several months ago. This was discussed at our standards committee and brought to Full Council for approval. Many Councillors stood and spoke on this issue, telling some truly dreadful incidents of abuse and threats they and their families had received while representing their communities. I would like to be able to say that I haven't received anything of the sort, but sadly, as a woman in politics it seems par for the course. I was very grateful for the support received from the Police in my cases, and am now very glad that there will be a more robust process in place within Cornwall Council for supporting Cornwall Councillors and officers as well.

I also attended the Children's and Families Oversight and Scrutiny committee this month where we discussed and made recommendations on Early years sufficiency and SEND provision in Cornwall - two areas that are particularly close to my heart and where action is desperately needed.

Highways -

I have continued to press the Portfolio holder for Transport about the cuts to funding for the A38, and am pleased to report that he is very supportive of our plea for road safety upgrades to the area. He has written to the Department for Transport to request that these vital safety upgrades are carried out with urgency. I have attached a copy of his letter for your information.

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Community Chest -

I am pleased to say that my community chest grant pot is now open again for applications. I have already received quite a number of applications, and as always, my hope is that grants are spread out across the whole division. If you know of a small community group that might need a small amount of funding, please put them in touch with me.

No Mow May -

As you will all be aware, Cornwall Council participates in No Mow May, while for most of the month this is entirely uncontroversial - by the end of the month we see increasing complaints and claims that this is just a cost cutting exercise. Generally, I am really supportive of allowing the verges wildflowers and grasses to grow and seed naturally as I think there are many benefits to the scheme, but I did feel the need to report several areas towards the end of the month on safety grounds, specifically around Millbrook and the Tregantle areas. Some of these have now been cut back, while others I am still arguing for this to be done. We will hopefully see these areas dealt with over the coming weeks.