

Cornwall Council Report – Landewednack Parish Council - September 2025

I hope you have all been well over the summer period.

Since we last met, Cornwall Council convened its first full meeting under the new administration on July 22nd. A wide-ranging agenda was debated, with motions passed which reflect both our environmental responsibilities and our duty to protect Cornwall's distinct identity.

Among the measures agreed:

- **Protecting Marine Life:** We supported a voluntary ban on plastic 'flying ring' toys, which too often end up harming marine wildlife.
- **Tackling Boat Abandonment:** We supported efforts to discourage the dumping of boats along our creeks and coasts. These vessels, left to rot, leach pollutants into our waters and scar our landscapes.
- **Health Collaboration:** We agreed to work closely with NHS England and Devon County Council following the announcement of a merger between Cornwall and Devon's Integrated Care Boards.

Perhaps the most significant, and certainly the most scrutinised, was the '**Fifth Nation**' motion, brought forward by Cllr Dick Cole and seconded by myself. This called on the Leader of Cornwall Council to write to the Prime Minister, urging recognition of Cornwall as a devolved region on par with Wales and Scotland.

This motion was a direct response to the Government's English Devolution Bill, which proposes a Strategic Mayoral Authority spanning both Devon and Cornwall. Such a model, in my view, risks diluting Cornwall's voice and eroding Cornish National Minority Status. The motion passed, and Cllr Leigh Frost has since written to the Prime Minister seeking a bespoke devolution settlement for Cornwall. Furthermore, Cornish MPs took the case to Westminster during the Second Reading of the English Devolution Bill in Parliament on September 2nd.

Committee Work and Individual Decisions

Beyond Full Council, many committees have paused during the summer break. Despite this, I've attended meetings of the **West Cornwall Sub-Area Planning Committee** and the **Sustainable Growth and Place Overview and Scrutiny Committee (SGPOSC)**. One of the key areas under review at the SGPOSC is the future of council-owned farms. Despite some headlines in local press, I must stress that this is not a proposal to 'sell off' these community assets, but rather an examination of how they can best serve Cornwall's future.

Recent decisions by Cabinet members include, but are not limited to:

- A **6% increase in parking charges**, aligned with inflation trends to be implemented in September (Cllr Dan Rogerson, Transport);
- Acceptance of a **£1.1 million grant** from the Government's Consolidated Active Travel Fund, an allocation based on Cornwall's population and capability, not a competitive bid (Cllr Adam Paynter).
- The introduction of the 'Access4All' discount card scheme for children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND), developed by the council-run Family Information Service (FIS) to offer discounts at Cornish venues (Cllr Hilary Frank)

- Anyone can apply for an Access4ALL card if your child or young person:
 - Is aged **0–25**
 - Lives in **Cornwall**, and
 - Has a **special educational need or disability**
- Application for this can be found through Cornwall Council's website, or by calling the Family Information Service on 0800 587 8191.

Local Matters

- I have contacted Alan Burrows, Head of Local Government Affairs at the Pennon Group (owners of South West Water), regarding the ruptured sewer pipe off Church Cove. This issue was raised with me by Grade-Ruan Parish Council, but due to the holistic nature and location of this pipe, I believe it is worth this Council's attention. I will inform you of any response I receive.

Fire Co-Responders

- On August 5th, I hosted a meeting with Councillors on the phasing out of Fire Co-Responders, alongside Andrew George MP and local fire station managers. Despite repeated requests, SWAST has failed to provide data on this transition. We are now considering our next steps following this disappointing lack of engagement.
- On August 22nd I met with Watch Manager Adam Martin at St Keverne Fire Station alongside Andrew George MP, where questions were asked regarding the reduced number of 'shouts' that Fire Co-Responders have attended since the decision to phase out the scheme.
- The issue of Fire Co-Responders will be on the agenda for the next meeting of Cornwall Council's Health and Adult Social Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee, scheduled for October 8th.

Community Engagement

I continue to support constituents through casework and have attended several community events around the division and beyond, including:

- Lizard and Coverack Lifeboat Days
- Helston Fire Brigade Open Day
- St Keverne Ox Roast
- Grade-Ruan Vintage Rally
- Mullion Extravaganza

As always, should you need my assistance, I am contactable at cllr.rory.gow@cornwall.gov.uk.