

CORNWALL COUNCILLOR UPDATE FOR FEBRUARY 2022



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I have decided to write an overarching update each month, that will be sent to the 6 Parishes and 1 Town Council that sits within the **Rame Peninsula & St Germans** division. I hope that this will give an overall picture of the work being done across the division and will help inform Parish & Town Councillors.

Cornwall Council –

On Tuesday 22nd February, **Cornwall Council** met to debate and vote on the budget for Cornwall for the next financial year. There were several 'alternative budgets' proposed by Councillors from my own Labour Group, the Lib Dem Group and the Independent Group. Really, these could best be described as amendments to the overall budget but because of the constitution of the Council they are described as alternate budgets. Our alternate looked to reverse cuts to some very specific programmes within the Children's and Families Service, specifically Family Conferencing - which is working with extended families to keep children within their family groups, and the behavioural team which works with those children with exceptional needs. Unfortunately this was voted down, all opposition Councillors supported the amendment.

At the same Full Council meeting, Councillors were asked to approve the proposed price rises for users of the **Torpoint Ferry and Tamar Bridge**. While I absolutely understand that there is a funding deficit for the Tamar Crossings, I felt that the 30% increase was too much in one go especially with the cost of living crisis that is looming for working people. I also felt that agreeing to raise the costs for tag users months before cash users was not fair or just. Many residents approached me over this issue and asked me to vote against the price hike, and against the disparity in when the rise will take effect and I can confirm that, alongside most of the Councillors for South East Cornwall, I voted against the recommendations in the report. Unfortunately, while there seemed to be a free vote on this item, it still passed and we will see price rises fairly soon.

We have recently found out the Catherine Thomson, our **Community Link Officer**, for the Cornwall Gateway area is to stay with us after the recent job losses and reshaping of the Localism team. I am sure you will all be as delighted as me with the news that Catherine will continue to work with us here - Catherine will now be taking over an extra Community Network Area which means her time will be even more precious, and I am certain we will all take that into consideration.

Around the Peninsula -

We have now reached the end of our **Community Chest** grant period for this financial year. Each Cornwall Councillor was given an increased funding pot this year of £3000 to reflect our much larger divisional areas. I am pleased to report that I used every penny of my grant on causes that have a direct impact on residents of the Rame Peninsula and St Germans division. As far as we know there will be another Community Chest Grant for next financial year so if you know of any community organisations that could benefit from this - ask them to look out for an announcement on my social media. Please see the table below for how this years grant was awarded.

Applicant	Amount
St Germans Youth Project Sensory equipment for weekly youth sessions in Village Hall	£249.97
T.S. Ramebead Sea Cadets Portable PA Speaker System	£249
Cornwall Pride RajibowFest 2021	£100
The Family Foraging Kitchen Butterfly nets and insect viewers for Bushcraft School	£124.95
Cornwall Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty Monumental Improvement Project	£200
Millbrook Skatepark Project Start-up project costs – promotional T-Shirts	£400
Kingfisher Pre School Installation of CCTV	£213.99
Café Abundance The Real Junk Food Project Torpoint & Rame – vehicle maintenance	£250
St John Parish Council Wetland/Wildlife Area Information Noticeboard	£250
Maker with Rame Parish Council Production and distribution of 'Green Guide'	£150
Rame Peninsula Beach Care Environmental Awareness Workshops with young people	£400
St Germans & Area Public Transport Group St Germans and Rame Integrated Public Transport Scheme Survey	£250
Liskeard & Looe Foodbank Purchase of low stock essential items	£162.09
Total of allocated funds:	£3000
Total of remaining funds:	0

Meetings -

February's meetings as your divisional member included –

Full Council

Central Planning

Miscellaneous Licencing

Cornish National Minority Working Group

Meeting with Rame Responders

Meeting with Wildanet representatives and Torpoint TC

St Columba Rugby Club meeting

Millbrook Cllr Surgery

Torpoint TC, Millbrook PC, Shevioc PC.

In **addition**, there were several **Teams** meeting for ongoing projects in the division and further training on planning.

Upcoming meeting dates for your diaries –

Community Network Panel – 16th March 2022 – evening

Climate Change Network meeting – 10th March 2022 @1300hrs

Rame Cluster Meeting – 8th March 2022 @1830hrs