

CORNWALL COUNCILLOR UPDATE FOR AUGUST & SEPTEMBER 2022



cllr.kate.ewert@cornwall.gov.uk



07873 193631



@KateForRame



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 and around the Peninsula-

There were very few Council meetings during August, much of the Council is quiet during this month. Returning to meetings in September, our Full Council meeting was postponed by a day due to the official mourning period for our late Queen.

I was pleased to be able to join with several of our Parishes in their official proclamations of the accession of King Charles III. These were solemn and moving events that I felt honoured to be invited too. I also signed the book of condolence at New County Hall on behalf of the Rame Peninsula and St Germans division.

At our Full Council meeting of the 21st September, I was proud to be able to move a motion on the cost of living crisis, which included sensible ways in which our Cornwall Council can proactively work with communities over this winter to help alleviate the impact of the crisis on residents that we represent. I was really pleased to see members from all political parties speaking so eloquently on this matter, there is a real understanding of the pressure this places on residents in Cornwall. After a small bit of amending the motion passed with only one Councillor abstaining. In conjunction with this I have set up an open letter on the cost of living crisis, which can be found at www.cornwallcostoflivingcrisis.co.uk (The text of the motion is on the next page).

I was absolutely delighted to be re-elected unanimously as the Cornish co-chair of the Mount Edgcumbe Joint Committee. This is an interesting period for the park, where under careful management, it has become cost neutral. So, instead of costing both Councils thousands of £ per annum, this fabulous asset covers its own costs - while still having the back up of the Councils and being owned by the people of Plymouth & Cornwall. It is an excellent example of public ownership. 😊

MOTIONS TO COUNCIL
21 September 2022

Title of Motion	Cost of Living Crisis Support
Proposer	Cllr Kate Ewert
Seconder	Cllr Jayne Kirkham
Supporters (a minimum of three are required)	Cllrs Barnes, Bunney, Clemens, Frank, George, Jenkin, Marrington and Rich
Recommendation for Council to vote on	<p>The Council resolves to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Support the aims and objectives in the Written Statement arising from the Cornwall and IoS Leadership Board Cost of Living Summit on 5 Sept 2022 (see below). Support the commitment to further coordinated collective action in the areas of community and voluntary sector support, maximising income, reducing debt, supporting housing security, energy efficiency, fuel poverty, and access to food set out in paragraph 9 of that statement, while taking into account input from councillors across all parties and representing people in every area of Cornwall. Specifically support the commitment to create a Warmth Banks strategy to identify council buildings and those of partners and organisations from across the duchy which can be open for the people of Cornwall to use to keep warm. These buildings should be spread across the duchy, including rural areas that do not have Cornwall Council buildings. Request that the Leader writes to the new Chancellor and Prime Minister urging them to: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Freeze the energy price cap at current levels Substantially increase the Household Support Fund that the Government has set aside for Local Authorities to use to support households in need in their areas. Set up a fund to support local businesses that are struggling with energy bills and increase the business rates threshold for 2022/23 for business rates relief by £10,000 (excluding second home and holiday lets). <p>Significant numbers of people living in Cornwall were already struggling to make ends meet before the announcement that the energy price cap is being raised to £3,549 per year in October.</p>

the proposer aiming to achieve)	<p>This is against a backdrop of inflation at over 10%. The average wage in Cornwall is already roughly £5000 less than the national average, house prices are roughly 14 times as high as wages and 18% of children live in relative low-income families. Cornwall already has families living in fuel poverty, this current crisis will exacerbate that.</p> <p>With a further rise of the cap anticipated in January it is clear that a significant number of people, families and businesses in the duchy will soon find it impossible to pay for their energy bills as well as all their other outgoings.</p> <p>Some academics are predicting more than half of UK households will be in fuel poverty - defined as having to spend over 10% of net income on fuel - by the end of the year.</p>
Does the motion*:-	No
(i) have potential financial implications for the Council - if so advise what these might be	No
(ii) have potential legal/constitutional implications for the Council - if so advise what these might be	No
(iii) require further background information to enable the Council to make a decision and/or require detailed consideration - if so advised what might be required	No

*Should any/all of (i)-(iii) apply it is likely that the constitutional provision of referring the motion to the relevant Committee will apply.

Dates for your diary:

The rescheduled Community Network Panel meeting, will be 5th Oct at 1800 at Mount Edgcumbe CP.

The next Rame Cluster meeting will be Monday 17th October at 1800 on Teams.