

CORNWALL COUNCILLOR UPDATE FOR FEBRUARY 2023



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@KateForRame



Cornwall Council and around the Peninsula-

Unfortunately I had to take a period of time off during February due to a family bereavement, so my report is likely to be shorted than normal this month. Thank you for all the kind messages my family and I have received, and for the support from the Parish Councils during this difficult time.

Council Tax

During February, there was a Full Council meeting that was to set the budget for the coming year, including the Council Tax amount to be paid by all residents. The Labour Group on Cornwall Council voted against this budget. Services are being cut and employees have been made redundant. Our offices, buildings, adventure centres, day centres are being sold off. Also being lost, or having to be taken on by town and parish councils, are leisure, swimming, culture, toilets, libraries and green spaces. Yet, this budget proposed to increase Council tax to the max possible. Our revenue spend is up £51.3 million, yet we still have to make £55 million in savings and we seem to get less for it every year. We know that our revenue support grant from central government has reduced by 88% since 2014 and our settlement funding assessment has reduced by 20% since 2017. The Full Council, however, agreed for council tax to increase to the maximum they are allowed to raise it. Council tax is an unfair tax on the people of Cornwall based on property values 30 years ago and produces less than it does in other, more affluent places. So, in Cornwall, where our average income is lower and we have an older population, we need more services, but the figures available to fund those services are less.

Deal for Cornwall

It's frustrating that Cornwall Council aren't releasing the full results of the public consultation on the County Deal, particularly the question on whether people think a mayor for Cornwall is a good idea. In fact they'll be releasing the consultants' report on the public consultation only, in the middle of March. It's hard to see how councillors can be expected to vote on whether we should have a Mayor, if we're not told what the people said! I will report next month on any updates with this.

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Community Chest Grants 22-23

My community chest has now all been allocated for this financial year. I have supported a wide range of community projects this year, from sailing in St Germans to paediatric first aid in Crafthole. You can see the allocations on the table below. I would expect to get the new grant allocation in around April/May and welcome applications from groups in this division.

Applicant	Amount
<i>Carried forward from 2021/22: £400 underspend as uncashed cheque for Rame Peninsula Beach Care</i>	<i>C/F £400*</i>
Rame Peninsula Beach Care (re-issued) Environmental Awareness Workshops	£400
The Black Prince Flower Boat Festival First Aid cover	£201.60
Antony Parish Council Pengelly Hill Footpath, Wilcove	£500
Crafthole Pre-School Emergency First Aid Course for parents	£250
Pigshill & Clarrick Woods Community Interest Company Restoration Volunteer Days	£500
The Family Foraging Kitchen CIC Community Festival Harfest	£300
Quay Sailing Club St Germans Youth Training	£485
CROWDFUNDER – Millbrook Skatepark Project New skatepark for Millbrook	£250
Action for Children Parliament Workshop	£250
Liskeard & Foodbank Set up costs for Torpoint Foodbank	£263.40
Total of allocated funds:	£3400*
Total of remaining funds:	£0

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Rame Peninsula
& St Germans

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Dates for your diary!

Our next Community Network Panel Meeting will be on **Wednesday 15 March 2023**. Place: Isambard House, Saltash. Time: 1800-2000.

This meeting will discuss the remaining Highways Scheme allocations, as well as an update on the Shared Prosperity Fund. Please ensure that your Parish/Town Council is represented at this meeting.