

CORNWALL COUNCILLOR UPDATE FOR DECEMBER 2022



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@KateForRame



Cornwall Council and around the Peninsula-

Firstly, a very Happy New Year to all of you, and thank you for all the hard work you have put in to your communities during 2022. I am very grateful for the support I am given by the Town and Parish Councils within this division, working in the collegiate way we do has helped to get progress on projects across the Rame Peninsula and St Germans ED.

So, to Cornwall Council news - there are a few consultations ongoing at the moment that are incredibly important.

The first is regarding the Devolution Deal that has been offered for Cornwall. You will recall from my November update that the Council essentially pushed the question of a referendum for the Cornish People on the Mayor proposal to a yet to be determined date in the future. Meanwhile the consultation is now live for Cornish residents to complete, the essential question in Q11, where it asks whether the deal is worth having a Mayor. I would encourage all Councils to share this consultation with your residents, if you are one of the many Councils that passed a resolution asking for a referendum then please do let your parishioners know. The link for the consultation can be found here <https://letstalk.cornwall.gov.uk/bigdeal>

The other consultation that is live is regarding the change of times on concessionary bus passes; these include senior and disabled passes. Currently, Cornwall Council allow for these passes to be used on all buses at all times the consultation is looking to see whether the Council can instead only allow uses outside of the morning peak travel times. I would strongly urge wide circulation of this consultation so views of our rural communities are heard. You can find more <https://letstalk.cornwall.gov.uk/concessionary-fares-consultation>

Finally, the Council is consulting on the planned budget for 23/24 and is asking Parish and Town Councils to have their say on the proposals. You can find more here <https://letstalk.cornwall.gov.uk/budget-23-24>

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During December we were hit with the severe cold weather and icy conditions, I was very grateful to the Highways team for rapidly ensuring that our key roads were gritted and salt bins refilled, I was especially grateful for the team gritting roads in our communities that are not on the planned routes, for example Military Road, St John Village and New Road in Cawsand. I had several enquiries during this period about new grit bins and how to obtain them, the portfolio holder has provided this response:

Provision of salt bins

I'm writing to clarify the process for supplying and filling salt bins as questions have been raised by some town and parish councils following the recent period of prolonged low temperatures.

The provision of salt bins is a non-statutory service. Cornwall Council ceased funding the provision of salt bins on the road network in 2010. At that point, town and parish councils were invited to take over the funding of their local salt bin or bins.

There are currently around 500 salt bins on the highway network in Cornwall, each maintained by Cornwall Council at the request of, and funded by, the local town or parish council.

Requests for new salt bins

Some town and parish councils have said that the wording of our policy and process regarding the provision of new bins may be misleading and places undue pressure on them.

This has been amended so that any requests are directed to Cornwall Highways in the first instance. Requests will be held on file and reviewed annually being subject to three checks

1. Is the requested bin on one of our twenty-five precautionary salting routes?
2. Is it safe to place the bin at the location requested?
3. Will the local town or parish council fund the bin?

(cont'd)

If the bin is not on a salting route (1), is proposed to be sited in a safe location (2) and agreement is reached for it to be funded by the local Town or Parish (3) then Cornwall Council will provide it.

Filling of salt bins

Once a year, before the start of the winter season, all salt bins on the highway network will be filled with salt. This is funded by Cornwall Council. Any subsequent re-filling of the bins will only be undertaken if there is an agreement with the local Town or Parish Council to fund this. This year an exceptional decision was taken to fill the salt bins a second time at Cornwall Council's expense, due to the extreme weather conditions we recently experienced.

Should you be involved in a request for a new salt bin to be added to the network or need advice on where they should be located, please contact the highways team at Enquires@cornwallhighways.co.uk

This information is also on the Cornwall Council website

<https://www.cornwall.gov.uk/transport-parking-and-streets/roads-highways-and-pavements/gritting-and-winter-maintenance/salt-bins/>

Community Network Panel

At the December CNP meeting we started looking at the schemes to go forward for the next round of funding for the Highways Scheme. I was pleased to see the crossing on St Johns Rd in Millbrook and improvements around Furlanesend School in Maker with Rame receive approval from the panel. Neither of the Parishes of Millbrook or MwR have received any schemes or funding through the Highways scheme as since it has been running so it is well deserved.

Dates for your diary

Our next Community Network Panel is to be held on **Wednesday 15th March 2023 - place TBC.**