

**Cornwall Council Report
for meeting of Saltash Town Council
September 2020**



First: we'd like to thank the Mayor, Cllr. Bickford and Cllr. Phillips for welcoming Cornwall Councillor Geoff Brown (Portfolio Holder for Transport) to the station building and spending time in giving him a guided tour. Cllr. Brown has been a longstanding supporter of efforts to restore the station building and improve public transport connectivity in Saltash and Cornwall. He was extremely impressed by what he saw and heard - and will become an even stronger advocate going forward.

Back to School

The focus of much of Cornwall Council's work in recent weeks has been on supporting schools in welcoming back all students for the new academic year. During lockdown Cornwall Council published daily briefings for schools on guidance being issued by central government. These are now being published weekly, and Cornwall is running a number of webinars and FAQ sessions, which will continue as a support mechanism as the new term unfolds.

One of the major logistical challenges is ensuring students can travel to and from school safely. About 84 of the 1,400 bus journeys supported by Cornwall Council will be reserved exclusively for students to travel to and from school. In Saltash, this includes some of the 12 and 12A bus journeys. We will be providing an additional 25 buses to duplicate some journeys where it is known that a large number of students would normally travel. This means that on some routes there will be two buses making the same journey, with one being exclusively for the use of students. We're asking the public to help by not travelling at peak times if possible, and to check before they set off that the bus journey they intend to travel on has not been changed to student use only.

Cornwall Council has been working closely with Saltash Community School and bus companies to try and help ensure the safety of students and residents at the end of the school day. As part of this, we will be closing a short section of Broad Walk between the junctions of Uplands and Beatrice Avenue between 2:45 and 3:15 on school days. Uplands curves around in the shape of a horseshoe and turns in to Meadway. The 'upper' entrance/exit of this horseshoe road where it rejoins Broad Walk will remain open throughout, as well the section of Broad Walk from that junction to Wearde Road, enabling residents on Meadway and Uplands to enter / exit their homes while the road closure is in place. Buses will be lined up on the closed section of Broad Walk to enable students to be marshalled in to the buses in groups.

We are asking parents and carers where possible to not drive children to school but instead encourage their children to walk, scoot or cycle, which will ease traffic congestion, improve air quality and reduce our carbon footprint. If using the car is essential, we are asking people to drop off older children a short walk from school to reduce traffic congestion at the school gates.

A list of journeys affected and further guidance can be found on Cornwall Council's website: www.cornwall.gov.uk/schooltransport Alternatively, ring 0300 1234 222 or email transport@cornwall.gov.uk.

Annual Canvass

Every year, Cornwall Council is required by law to carry out a canvass of residents to ensure that their electoral registration details are up to date. A revised version of the electoral register will be published in December 2020.

For the first time ever, Cornwall Council will be contacting some households by email instead of sending a paper form in the post. We hope that residents will respond to emails as it will help avoid the need for home visits from canvassers, protecting Cornwall Council staff in the pandemic and saving money that can be used instead for other essential services.

Any residents with questions can contact the registration team at voter.registration@cornwall.gov.uk or call on 0300 123 1115

Empty Homes

Cornwall currently has a high housing need, and the housing market faces many pressures. In addition to planning for new housing development Cornwall Council is working towards bringing empty properties back into residential use and helping to meet housing requirements, while ensuring that we continue to raise housing standards.

The Council offers a range of assistance for owners of empty properties, including:

- Low cost loans scheme
- Access to leasing schemes
- Letter of evidence for VAT savings
- Free pre-application planning advice
- Other advice about bringing empty properties back into habitable use.

Contact the Empty Homes Team on 01726 223600 or emptyhomes@cornwall.gov.uk

Free School Meals

Residents who think their children may have become eligible for Free School Meals are being encouraged to apply to Cornwall Council. Applicants will receive a response within three working days.

Anyone who has been eligible for Free School Meals at any point since 1 April 2018 will remain eligible throughout the Universal Credit Rollout period, which is scheduled to continue until summer 2023. This will apply even if your earnings increase above the threshold. And any child currently entitled to Free School Meals at primary school who is moving on to secondary school will automatically have their entitlement transferred to their new school.

To check eligibility criteria and apply online go to www.cornwall.gov.uk/schoolmeals or ring 01872 323298.

Public Health Annual Report

The Annual Report of Cornwall Council's Director of Public Health has just been published. The focus of last year's Annual Report was on the impact of poverty on children's health. This year's Report is a call to action to reconnect with our planet and protect it, warning that behaviours that damage the health of the planet may also be damaging our own future health.

The Annual Reports are professional statements about the health of local communities. After an introduction about the history of planetary health, this year's Report explores the evidence of environmental degradation in topics such as water and food.

As well as looking at the bigger picture, the 76-page Report drills down to the local level and assesses the impact on communities in Cornwall. Chapter 4 on air, for example, talks about nitrogen dioxide levels being monitored at 9 sites in Cornwall and particulate air matter levels being monitored in Camborne and Saltash.

Cornwall Council has committed to placing climate change at the heart of our decisions as we continue through recovery and renewal from the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic. The recommendations in this Report make sobering but insightful reading in our journey.

The full report can be found at: https://www.cornwall.gov.uk/media/44165950/ph-2019-20-annual-report_august-2020_web.pdf

The Cornwall We Want

Determined to bounce forward after lockdown, not just back, Cornwall Council is using a new online engagement platform for its biggest ever listening project and asking questions such as:



- What has your experience of lockdown been?
- What, if anything, will you be trying to do differently in future?
- What do you want the 'new normal' to look like for you, your business or your community? What do you see as the challenges and opportunities to achieving those aims?
- To achieve the Cornwall we want for the future, what are the changes we need to make now?

The views and aspirations will be shaped in to a plan over the next couple of months, and debated at the November meeting of Full Council.

Please join the discussion: <https://letstalk.cornwall.gov.uk/the-cornwall-we-want>