

Cornwall Councillor Paul Wills' Report - February

Since we last met,

I had a meeting with officers and developers of the Creamery at Trevarrian, basically they have submitted almost the same plans as previous except for the inclusion of nine containers for small business purposes. They believe that they have satisfied the concerns raised by the planning inspector concerns. I and the residents along with the parish council believe they have not. If officers are minded approving, I will be taking it back again to committee who throw it out last time.

I attended the last C.A.P meeting, the minutes have been sent to Cllr Shapter, we discussed policing, transport policy, waste management, and various other matters.

I attended an all members briefing on the Government's Devolution White Paper. It's all rather up in the air now as to whether Cornwall will be lumped in with Devon. Cornwall Council and the six MPs are putting together the case for Cornwall to remain on its own. Who knows what will happen, but change is on the way.

I met with officers on site at a residency in the area where a dispute over roofing matters concerning two connected properties have been at logger heads. I think we have resolved the issue with conversation, communication, and compromise.

I attend Full Council at County Hall where the motion on devolution was discussed it proposed that :

Confirms its full support of the content of the letter seeking a greater autonomy and devolution for Cornwall, sent to the Deputy Prime Minister in September, which was signed by representatives of all political groups on the unitary authority and all six of Cornwall's MPs.

- Welcomes the efforts of Cornwall's six MPs in continuing to make the case for devolution to Cornwall as a stand-alone political unit.
- Notes that the UK Government has just published its "English Devolution White Paper," which does not include specific proposals for Cornwall.
- Confirms that elected members will not countenance any cross-border combined authority deals.
- And further calls for a meaningful devolution settlement for Cornwall, which properly reflects Cornwall's national identity and the national minority status of the Cornish.

It was voted on to agree to this unanimously.

There was also a motion about the National Trust which stated that:

Cornwall Council writes to the National Trust's Chief Executive, the Cornwall lead and the Board of Trustees, requesting that, in view of the housing crisis, the National Trust use all the holiday properties they have in Cornwall (that meet the minimum size requirements for a dwelling and do not have any planning or other legal restriction preventing them from being used as permanent homes) as long term lets.

I voted against this as I believe that the National Trust needs to generate income to be able to continue the great work they do maintaining many of the wonderful places we have in Cornwall with historic and community value. It was a close vote; the motion was agreed by three votes.

I met with officers to discuss the proposal for a drive through coffee outlet at Trekenning Roundabout. I objected strongly to this application; I am pleased officers have refused it.

I attended an all members briefing given by Devon and Cornwall Police on safety for those seeking election in May.

I chaired a meeting of Cornwall Council Standards Committee where we looked at trends concerning Organisational complaints to the Local Government Ombudsman, Ethical Standards Complaints and Government consultation on strengthening the standards and conduct framework for local authorities in England plus, Mandatory Member Training and Review of the Code of Conduct – Response to Consultation to Central Government.

Not a good response from planning regarding the land north of Prince Park Farm. It really grates me when there is a blatant disregard for planning and officer say it's not in the public interest to pursue the matter.