

# Councillor Report – March 2026



*Cllr Rowland O'Connor*

*Cornwall Council*

*Division: St. Columb Major, St. Mawgan-in-Pydar & St. Wenn*

## Introduction

Welcome to my March 2026 update for residents across St. Columb Major, St. Mawgan-in-Pydar and St. Wenn. This report provides a summary of council activity, community updates, and the key areas I am currently working on, on your behalf.

## Local Council Updates

### Cornwall Council Meetings

During March, I attended scheduled meetings of Cornwall Council including Full Council and committee sessions relevant to planning, standards, local plan development and local services.

## Cornwall Council Budget 2026/27

At Full Council on 24 February 2026, Cornwall Council agreed its revenue budget and capital programme for 2026/27. The budget sets out how core services such as adult social care, children's services, waste collection, highways maintenance and housing support will be funded for the coming financial year. Like councils nationally, Cornwall continues to face significant cost pressures, particularly in social care and demand-led services.

The agreed budget includes a Council Tax increase within the limits permitted by Government, alongside continued efficiency savings and service transformation measures. The capital programme also outlines planned investment in infrastructure, schools, transport, and housing delivery over the medium term. Further detail, including the full budget report and supporting documents, is available on the Cornwall Council website.



## Highways Update – Cabinet Member Briefing

The Cabinet Member for Transport has provided an update regarding pothole repairs following prolonged wet weather.

January was recorded as the wettest start to a year ever in Cornwall, following nearly two months of exceptional rainfall. As a result, there are currently around 5,200 reported pothole defects across the network, with an average of 517 new reports per day. Up to 50 repair gangs are working across Cornwall, repairing approximately 358 potholes per day, although overall reported numbers remain high while conditions stay wet.

Sustained dry weather will be required before repair rates begin to outpace new reports. Further updates are expected on a fortnightly basis, including additional information on repeat defects at recently repaired locations.

## Planning Matters

Planning applications within the division continue to generate interest. I have reviewed submissions and representations in line with planning policy and attended committee where required.

Residents are reminded that all planning applications can be viewed and commented on via the Cornwall Council planning portal.

## Community News

Local community groups and volunteers continue to play a vital role across the division.

- Parish councils have been progressing routine governance and local project work.
- Community organisations are preparing spring events and fundraising activities.
- Schools and local groups continue to engage in seasonal activities and educational programmes.

If your organisation has verified news to share for next month's report, please do get in touch.

## Events & Activities (Next 28 Days)

The following types of events are scheduled across the division over the coming weeks:

- Parish council meetings (see parish websites for confirmed dates and agendas).
- Spring community events and local fundraising activities.
- Seasonal church and community gatherings.

Residents are encouraged to check official parish and community pages for confirmed times and details.

## Casework & Resident Issues

This month's casework themes include:

- Highways defects and drainage concerns
- Planning enquiries
- Housing and tenancy-related queries
- Waste and environmental service matters

All individual cases are handled confidentially. If you have raised an issue and are awaiting an update, please feel free to follow up.

## Future Priorities (April 2026 Focus)

My focus for the coming month includes:

- Continued monitoring of drainage and flood resilience concerns.
- Engagement with residents on planning matters affecting the division.
- Following up on highways repair performance locally.

Supporting parish councils where governance or operational questions arise.

## Message to Residents

Thank you to everyone who has contacted me this month about local issues. Your feedback helps ensure Cornwall Council remains accountable and responsive to rural communities like ours. Please do continue to share any concerns or ideas — particularly as we look ahead to the festive season and beyond to 2026.

## Useful Links

- [Cornwall Council Planning Portal](#)
- [Roads and Transport Information](#)
- [Waste and Recycling Services](#)

## Contact Details

If you'd like to get in touch, please contact me at [cllr.rowland.oconnor@cornwall.gov.uk](mailto:cllr.rowland.oconnor@cornwall.gov.uk) or by phone on 01872 322222 (say my name).

## Staying Updated

For the latest verified information on services, emergencies and council announcements, residents can check the Cornwall Council website or follow official Cornwall Council social media channels.

*This report is for information only and is intended to keep residents updated on local matters. It does not represent personal views, editorial commentary, or promotional content.*