

# Councillor Report – April 2026



*Cllr Rowland O'Connor*

*Cornwall Council*

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

## Introduction

Welcome to the April 2026 update. This report provides a summary of recent activity across the division, including council updates, local issues, and priorities for the coming month.

## Local Council Updates

- **Highways & Flooding:** Following the exceptionally wet start to the year, highways repairs remain a key priority. Earlier this year, over 5,000 pothole defects were recorded across Cornwall, with hundreds of new reports being received daily. According to the latest update from the Cabinet Member for Transport, repair teams are continuing to work at scale across the network. Around 50 repair gangs are active, fixing hundreds of potholes per day, with output improving as weather conditions stabilise. While progress is being made, the volume of new defects has meant repairs have only recently begun to keep pace with demand. Sustained dry weather will be key to reducing the backlog. I will continue to monitor performance locally and raise specific issues where needed.
- **Planning:** Planning activity within the division remains steady, with continued engagement from residents. All applications can be viewed and commented on via the Cornwall Council planning portal.

## Newquay Airport – Officer Briefings Requested

I have formally requested officer briefings on:

- The business plan for Newquay Airport, to better understand its financial position and future strategy.
- The storage of temporary accommodation pods at Newquay Airport, including their purpose, duration of storage, and any implications for local services.

Further updates will be provided once these briefings have taken place.



## Cost of Living Support – Heating Oil Scheme

Support remains available for households off the mains gas grid through the Crisis Resilience Fund Energy Support Scheme.

Residents can find further information and apply here:

<https://www.cornwall.gov.uk/benefits-and-support/housing-benefit/crisis-and-resilience-fund-energy-support-scheme/>

## Community News

During March, community activity across the division has continued steadily:

- Parish councils have progressed local governance and local projects.
- Community groups and volunteers are preparing spring activities.
- Schools and organisations continue seasonal programmes.

## Casework & Resident Issues

During March, the main themes raised by residents included:

- Highways issues
- Housing matters
- Planning enquiries
- Newquay Airport concerns

Individual casework continues to be progressed with the relevant Cornwall Council services.

## Future Priorities

My focus for the coming month includes:

- Continuing to press for improved highways repair performance locally.
- Following up on Newquay Airport matters.
- Supporting residents with cost-of-living concerns.
- Engagement with planning matters.

## 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.

## 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.*