

Councillor Report – May 2026



Cllr Rowland O'Connor

Cornwall Council

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

Welcome to my May 2026 monthly report for residents across St. Columb Major, St. Mawgan-in-Pydar and St. Wenn. This report provides a summary of recent council activity, local issues, community updates and priorities for the month ahead.

Local Council Updates

Highways & Road Maintenance

Highways issues continue to be one of the most common concerns raised by residents. During April and early May, further pothole repairs and patching works were carried out across parts of the division following ongoing reports of surface deterioration after the winter period.

Cornwall Council has advised councillors that the number of reported pothole defects across Cornwall has now fallen from 2,472 to 2,034 — a reduction of approximately 18% since the previous update. The Council has stated that it would normally expect seasonal defect levels to sit at around 1,500 at this time of year, and work is continuing to reduce the remaining backlog following the severe winter weather. (Cornwall Council Member Update, May 2026)

Cornwall-Wide Pothole Defect Trend

Cornwall Council's reported pothole defect backlog has continued to fall following severe winter weather, decreasing from a peak of around 5,700 defects in February 2026 to just over 2,000 by early May 2026. (Cornwall Council Member Update, May 2026)

I continue to raise concerns regarding:

- Persistent pothole reoccurrence on rural roads.
- Drainage and standing water issues.
- Road edge deterioration on narrower lanes.
- The need for clearer communication around planned works and temporary repairs.

Residents are encouraged to continue reporting highways defects directly through Cornwall Council's online reporting system, as this helps prioritise inspection and repair scheduling.

Newquay Airport Updates

I have now received information relating to the temporary accommodation pods currently being stored at Newquay Airport and have shared relevant updates with the Parish Council.

I am also continuing to work with Cornwall Council officers to better understand the developing business plans and longer-term strategic direction for Newquay Airport, including the potential implications for the local area, connectivity and economic activity.

These discussions are intended to provide greater clarity around operational, financial and community considerations connected to the airport.

Planning & Development

Planning matters remain an active area of casework throughout the division, particularly within sensitive landscape areas and locations affected by infrastructure pressures.

Recent resident concerns have included:

- Highway safety and access arrangements.
- Cumulative impact of development.
- Protection of landscape character.
- Drainage and surface water management.

Residents and parish councils continue to play an important role in the planning process through local consultation responses and engagement.

Cornwall Council Activity

Cornwall Council continues work on:

- Budget delivery and service savings following the February budget setting process.
- Ongoing review of highways maintenance priorities.
- Housing pressures and temporary accommodation demand across Cornwall.
- Economic and transport strategy discussions linked to connectivity and infrastructure.

Cornwall Council & Wider Issues

Planning Transparency & Public Confidence

During April, concerns were raised regarding public confidence in Cornwall's planning system, including the importance of transparency, consistency and ensuring local residents and parish councils feel their views are properly considered within planning decisions.

NHS Dentistry Access

Concerns were also raised at Full Council regarding access to NHS dental care for children in Cornwall. Discussions focused on improving preventative care, outreach services and access pathways for families struggling to secure appointments.

Rural Funding & Cost of Living

Ongoing concerns continue to be raised regarding rural deprivation, pressures on public services and the impact of national funding formulas on rural and coastal communities such as Cornwall.

Community News

Overnight Street Lighting Survey

Thank you to everyone who has taken part in the St. Columb Major overnight street lighting survey. Responses continue to come in from residents sharing experiences and views regarding overnight switch-offs.

The information gathered will help inform future representations and discussions with Cornwall Council.

Energy Support & Heating Oil Relief

Residents struggling with energy costs may be eligible for support through Cornwall Council's Crisis and Resilience Fund Energy Support Scheme.

Further information can be found here:

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

Community Engagement

It has been positive to continue attending parish meetings, community discussions and resident engagements across the division over the past month. Ongoing cooperation between local councils, community groups and residents remains extremely important in addressing local concerns constructively.

Events & Activities

Upcoming Local Events

Residents may wish to look out for:

- Parish council annual meetings taking place during May.
- Community commemorations and seasonal village events.
- Local fundraising activities organised by community groups and schools.

Please check parish council websites and local noticeboards for confirmed details and timings.

Casework & Resident Issues

During the past month, casework has included:

- Highways defects and potholes.
- Planning and enforcement concerns.
- Street lighting issues.
- Housing and temporary accommodation queries.
- Waste collection and environmental concerns.
- Drainage and flooding reports.
- Noise nuisance concerns.
- Public Rights of Way (PROW) concerns, including access and maintenance issues.

As always, personal details relating to individual residents are kept confidential.

Future Priorities

My priorities for the coming month include:

1. Continuing to press for improvements to highways repairs and drainage issues.
2. Continuing discussions with officers regarding Newquay Airport matters.
3. Monitoring local planning applications and infrastructure concerns.
4. Supporting parish councils and community engagement across the division.
5. Following up on resident concerns regarding overnight street lighting.

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 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.