

Councillor Report - September 2026



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Cornwall Council

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

Welcome to my September update for St. Columb Major, St. Mawgan-in-Pydar & St. Wenn. This report covers local matters and Council updates from the past 28 days, together with useful dates and priorities for the weeks ahead.

Local Council Updates

Please report local highway and public-realm issues

Cornwall Council provides online reporting forms for potholes, blocked drains, damaged signs, street-light faults, overgrown vegetation and other road and pavement problems. If you see something that needs attention, please report it directly so that it is logged against the location and can be tracked. For an immediate highway danger or emergency, call 0300 1234 222.

([Cornwall Council - Report It; Aug 2026](#))

Planning changes from 31 October

New national rules governing which planning applications can be decided by Planning Committees take effect on 31 October 2026. In broad terms, more applications will have to be determined by planning officers, while committee consideration of other applications will be subject to national criteria and a new referral process. I have sent Town and Parish Councils a separate summary of what this means locally, supplementing the slide deck circulated in August.

The Government also published a new National Planning Policy Framework on 17 August, which took effect immediately. Cornwall Council is reviewing how its local planning policies align with the new national framework. A briefing for local councillors and clerks on the planning changes is scheduled for 23 September.

([UK Government - planning delegation guidance](#); [Cornwall Council - planning changes](#); [local council planning training](#))

August committee representations

Newquay Airport - extraordinary scrutiny, 19 August. I challenged describing £5 million of Council support as an “income stream”, saying it was a taxpayer burden, and asked for clarity over £320,000 listed as “unidentified consultants”. Corserv said suppliers were known and would be listed; the rising subsidy was referred for further scrutiny.



Bears Down wind farm - Strategic Planning, 20 August. I represented residents on application PA23/10324, supporting repowering Bears Down in principle but questioning whether four 150-metre turbines were acceptable at this location. I requested a deferral for legal advice after publication of the new National Planning Policy Framework; officers advised determination could proceed and the application was approved by eight votes to one.

([Cornwall Council - archived webcasts, 19 & 20 Aug 2026](#); [LDRS - Newquay Airport](#); [LDRS - Bears Down](#))

Policing

The local policing position remains under review. There is no substantive update to report this month; I will report back when further information is available.

Ruthvoes - speed limit request

I have received a request from residents for the speed limit through Ruthvoes to be reviewed. I have asked St. Columb Major Town Council to consider the issue for discussion at a Council meeting, as appropriate. I will update residents when there is a clear next step.

Community News

Schools: September term and 2027 admissions

Cornwall Council's recommended autumn term for community and voluntary-controlled schools begins on 3 September 2026, although academies and some other schools may set different dates. Applications for reception, junior transfer and secondary school places for September 2027 open on 1 September.

([Cornwall Council - term dates](#); [school admissions](#))

Free school meals eligibility expands

From September 2026, children in households receiving Universal Credit become eligible for a free school meal under the expanded national rules. Cornwall Council advises families who believe they qualify to apply through the Parent Portal if they have not already been contacted.

([Cornwall Council - school meals](#); Aug 2026)

Water restrictions

As this report is prepared, temporary hosepipe restrictions remain in force across Cornwall and the wider South West Water area. Residents should check South West Water's current guidance for restrictions and exemptions.

([South West Water - hosepipe restrictions](#); 28 Aug 2026)

Events & Activities - Next 28 Days

1 September - St. Columb Major Town Council Full Council meeting, 7.00pm-9.00pm, Council Chamber, Town Hall, Market Place.

10 and 24 September - "Just Be" community sessions, 2.00pm-4.00pm, Vyvyan Room at the Columba Centre - coffee, cake, chat and crafts.

19-20 September - St. Mawgan Steam & Vintage Rally, St. Mawgan. The published programme includes vintage vehicles, steam and community activities.

([St. Columb Major Town Council meetings](#); [St. Columb Major community events](#); [Steam Heritage - Cornwall events](#))

Casework & Resident Issues

Current casework themes include highways and public-realm defects, the Ruthvoes speed-limit request, planning changes affecting local representation and the continuing policing review. Individual cases remain confidential.

Future Priorities

- Continue to seek and share any substantive policing update.
- Support Town and Parish Councils as the new planning delegation arrangements approach.
- Follow up the Ruthvoes speed-limit request and resident highways/public-realm concerns.

Contact

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