Councillor Report – November 2026



Cllr *Rowland* O'Connor
Cornwall Council

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

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Introduction

Hello everyone,

Welcome to my November report, covering my work across the division and at Cornwall Council during October, along with local issues and forthcoming activities.

October was a busy month, with meetings covering financial oversight, education, children's services and planning. I was also elected Chairman of Cornwall Council's Budget Development Overview and Scrutiny Committee. Closer to home, I have encouraging news about the road closure at Gilbert's Water.

My Work at Cornwall Council – October 2026

Budget Development Scrutiny – Elected Chairman

On 15 October, I was elected Chairman of Cornwall Council's Budget Development Overview and Scrutiny Committee. The committee examines how the Council develops its budget, including proposed spending, savings and financial priorities.

At our first meeting, members discussed the need for adequate opportunities to scrutinise emerging budget proposals before important decisions are taken. It was agreed that I would write to Cabinet seeking further engagement. With the financial challenges facing Cornwall Council, transparency and proper financial scrutiny are especially important. [1]

Children's Services and Education

On 7 October, I attended the Together for Families Overview and Scrutiny Committee. Its business included home-to-school and post-16 transport assistance, pressures on children's social care, the developing Cornwall Education Strategy and Curriculum Kernewek.

These are important issues for families across Cornwall, particularly in rural communities where transport and access to support can be challenging. [2]

Planning – West Sub-Area Planning Committee

On 12 October, I attended the West Sub-Area Planning Committee as a substitute member. Among the applications considered was PA26/01235, a proposal for up to 40 homes at Mabe Burnthouse.

Ahead of the meeting, I reviewed the application, relevant planning policies and community representations. I believe planning applications deserve careful scrutiny, with proper consideration of local concerns and adopted policies. [3]

Corporate Finance and Performance

On 13 October, I attended the Corporate Finance and Performance Overview and Scrutiny Committee as a substitute member. Its remit includes examining financial performance, services and resources. Ensuring value for public money remains a priority. [4]

Council Governance and Leadership

On 5 October, I attended the Chief Officers Employment Committee. I also continued my responsibilities as Leader of the Cornish Independent Non-Aligned Group, working across political groups to focus on practical outcomes for residents. [5]

Local Council Updates

Gilbert's Water, St. Columb Major – Road Closure

I am pleased to report progress regarding the ongoing road closure at Gilbert's Water. Jack Thomas, Highway Manager at Cornwall Highways, has confirmed that the landowner has completed the necessary works to manage water on their land.

Cornwall Highways can now proceed with carriageway repairs and drainage improvements, scheduled to begin during the week commencing Monday 23 November 2026. No completion or reopening date has yet been confirmed.

I appreciate the considerable inconvenience this lengthy closure has caused and thank residents and road users for their patience. I will continue monitoring progress and seeking confirmation of the reopening timetable. [6]

Please Report Problems in Your Community

I encourage residents to use Cornwall Council's online Report It service to flag potholes, blocked drains, damaged signs, overgrown vegetation and other public-realm problems. My understanding is that changes to the scheduling of routine maintenance make residents' reports increasingly important; this wider policy point is awaiting formal confirmation.

Please provide an accurate location and photographs where possible, and retain the reference number to track progress. Report online: www.cornwall.gov.uk/reportit. For urgent highway dangers, call 0300 1234 222. [7]

Other Scheduled Roadworks

Published notices identify works between Ponderosa Farm junction and Trewan Farm (9–19 November); overnight level-crossing inspections on Newquay Road, St. Columb Road (10–11 November); and works on sections of the B3273 and Higher Gluvian Farm–Cherry Hill road (23 November).

Dates may change. Check one.network/uk/cornwall before travelling. [8]

Casework and Resident Issues

Getting Outstanding Issues Resolved

I am aware of concerns about delays in resolving some previously reported issues. Residents who have not received a satisfactory response should follow up using their original reference number. Where appropriate, Cornwall Council also has a formal complaints procedure: www.cornwall.gov.uk/the-council-and-democracy/feedback-and-complaints/.

A complaint can address how a service was delivered, although it will not necessarily change the underlying decision. I remain available to assist residents with unresolved Council matters. [9]

Community News and Events

12 and 26 November, 2–4pm: Just Be at St Columb – coffee, cake, conversation and crafts at the Columba Centre.

29 November, 1–4pm: Angel & Dove Festival installation preparations at St. Columb Major Church. The festival opens on 1 December.

29 November, 6pm: Lann Pydar Benefice Advent Carol Service. Please confirm event details with organisers before attending. [10]

My Priorities for November

Monitor the Gilbert's Water repairs and seek a confirmed reopening timetable; pursue outstanding local highway and maintenance concerns; support residents with casework; lead scrutiny of emerging Council budget proposals; and continue monitoring planning matters across the division.

Contact Me

If you'd like to get in touch, please email cllr.rowland.oconnor@cornwall.gov.uk.

Cllr Rowland O'Connor | Cornwall Councillor – St. Columb Major, St. Mawgan-in-Pydar & St. Wenn | Leader, Cornish Independent Non-Aligned Group

Sources and Notes

[1] Budget Development Overview and Scrutiny Committee, 15 October 2026; [2] Together for Families Overview and Scrutiny Committee, 7 October 2026; [3] West Sub-Area Planning Committee, 12 October 2026, and councillor confirmation of attendance; [4] Corporate Finance and Performance Overview and Scrutiny Committee, 13 October 2026; [5] Chief Officers Employment Committee, 5 October 2026; [6] Email from Jack Thomas, Cornwall Highways; [7] Cornwall Council Report It; [8] Published temporary traffic orders; [9] Cornwall Council Feedback and Complaints; [10] Local church event listings.

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.