

## Report to STC February 2024

Cllr. Hilary Frank



### 1. Residents' Parking

Over the years, I've received multiple requests from residents living close to Fore Street for the introduction of residential parking permits. These requests have increased in direct correlation to the recent increase in parking charges. I've always been told that residential parking schemes are too expensive, but I decided to ask one more time about the situation. Here is the response I received:

**Residents' parking schemes are often controversial and rarely resolve all the parking problems in an area. The Cornwall Transport Plan has recently been reviewed and lessons learnt from previous residents' parking schemes have also been considered as part of this. A new policy is currently being reviewed by the Portfolio Holder for Transport, but residents' parking schemes are expensive to implement and run. Therefore, Cornwall Council will seek alternative solutions to the issues and only consider residents parking schemes where:**

- o There is evidence of traffic management issues that a scheme will resolve
- o There is evidence of local support for the scheme from residents and councillors
- o The scheme is affordable
- o The scheme supports the transport strategy for the area
- o The scheme is enforceable (remote schemes not on existing enforcement routes will cost more for the enforcement service)
- o The scheme will not result in displacement parking (introducing small scale schemes often push the non-resident parking into adjacent streets)

Does the Town Council have a view on the way forward?

### 2. Bus Shelter on Wearde Road

After plenty of requests from residents we finally have a bus shelter on Wearde Road again!



### 3. Finances

On 18<sup>th</sup> December, the government announced the finances they are proposing to grant to local authorities (called the Local Government Settlement). It contained the shock news, as detailed in Slide 6 of the presentation Cllr. Worth sent out, that the Services Grant would be reduced by a staggering 84%.

Slide 6

## 2024/25 Services Grant

*It was announced in the 2024/25 Provisional Local Government Finance Settlement that the Services Grant would be cut (nationally) from £483m to just £77m – a reduction of 84%. The level of this cut was unexpected amongst the Local Government Sector.*

*For Cornwall this means that our allocation has gone from £4.535m in 2023/24 to just £0.714m in 2024/25 – a reduction of £3.821m. We were anticipating a cut of around £0.830m to fund additional Social Care funding (from the £80m listed below), so the net impact on our draft budget assumptions is a reduction of c£3m.*

A subsequent campaign led by the County Councils Network highlighted the extreme pressures facing county and unitary authorities. This culminated in a letter to government in the beginning of January, signed by an unprecedented 46 MPs, asking for emergency financial relief. Michael Gove's letter of 24<sup>th</sup> January announcing an additional £500m nationwide will go some way to easing the pressures being faced, but there are still difficult decisions to be made in setting Cornwall's budget for 2024/25. In order to balance the books, approximately £15 million will still need to be taken from General Reserves, and service reductions will still need to be introduced. Earlier this week, Cornwall Council's Cabinet made it clear that they will still be recommending the maximum council tax rise of 4.99%.

Councils need a long-term financial settlement to be able to plan for the demand from growing elderly populations and the more complex needs of residents requiring social care.

### 4. Urban Green Shoots in Tintcombe

Using funding from the Shared Prosperity Fund, Cornwall Council has launched the Urban Green Shoots initiative to bring increased biodiversity to public open spaces across Cornwall, including Tintcombe. A new urban ranger has already started working with the Friends of Tintcombe to plan improvements to the area that will 'create green sanctuaries that are free and accessible'.

### 5. Tamar Tolls at Cabinet

Item 8 of the Cabinet meeting to be held on 7<sup>th</sup> February will discuss the financing of the Tamar Crossings. It is being advocated that Cabinet recommends to Full Council that ***an application for a toll revision based on £3.00 cash and £1.50 TAG be made to the Secretary of State.***

### 6. Live Consultations on the Let's Talk Website :



#### Nature Recovery Strategy

We're developing a Nature Recovery Strategy for Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly.



#### Healthier Weight Strategy

We want to positively change the environmental and societal factors that drive obesity.



#### Niveryans Awenek / Creative Census

If you work in the Creative Industries, let us know what's important to you.



#### Gypsy, Roma and Traveller Strategy

We're aiming to improve the lives of Gypsy, Roma and Traveller communities in Cornwall.