

## Report to STC September 2024

Cllr. Hilary Frank



### 1. Roadworks to improve safety at St Stephens School

Although roadworks to improve road safety around St Stephens School have been completed, there are still issues that need to be resolved. Following a site visit with Cormac, it has been agreed that action will be taken in various areas including:

- Installation of larger 'No entry' signs on the exit of the one-way system of Long Park Road
- Installation of the loading bay by the side of the Spar shop
- Installation of an extra dropped kerb to reflect the place where the School Crossing Patrol actually stands

### 2. Asset Transfer of Car Parks

Currently, ANPR cannot be used for enforcement by local authorities. Although the legislation is in place to enable this, government has not approved the equipment that would be needed, and therefore no local authorities (including Town and Parish councils) can use ANPR for enforcement. There are currently nine 'Pay on Exit' car parks in Cornwall managed by Cornwall Council where ANPR is used for payment. In these Pay on Exit car parks, the system recognises a vehicle registration on the way in to the car park as the driver takes a ticket from the machine. Once the driver has paid, the barrier at the exit will raise to enable the vehicle to exit.

The inability to use ANPR for enforcement is one of the issues that led Cornwall Council to transfer Little Fistral car park in Newquay on a lease of two years to its arms-length company Treveth, which has then entered in to a lease arrangement with a parking company called Initial. The trial has been deemed a 'success' as Initial has made improvements in the infrastructure of the car park, and income to the Council has increased by around 33%. The increase is partly due to the introduction of winter charging, but also because of the use of ANPR for enforcement.

Consequently, Cabinet is considering increasing the number of car parks that will be leased following this model. At a meeting of the Economic Growth and Development Overview and Scrutiny Committee on September 4<sup>th</sup>, a commitment was given that a parking order consultation process would be followed with Town and Parish councils as well as with Cornwall Councillors in areas where there is a car park being considered for transferral before determining whether to proceed with a lease or not.

Cornwall Council has 230 car parks in total. Of these, 117 are fee charging and about 50 are in town centres. Legally, however, car parks that serve as transport hubs cannot be considered for asset transferral.

### 3. Booking System at the Saltash HWRC

At this meeting of the Town Council (Sept 5<sup>th</sup>), town councillors will receive a presentation on the trial of a booking system that is due to be introduced at the Saltash Household Waste and Recycling Centre from Sept 9<sup>th</sup>.

I would like to state for the record that the first time I was given any intimation that Cabinet was considering introducing a booking system was at a briefing held on August 15<sup>th</sup>. Together with other Cornwall Councillors at that briefing, I raised a whole range of concerns, including that a booking system risks leading to an increase in fly tipping, but all our concerns were brushed off and the trial has been pushed through.

Although queuing has been an issue at the Saltash HWRC, there are other, cheaper measures that could have been introduced to reduce queuing, such as reinstating the webcam, extending the opening hours or going back to the system that was in place during Covid when cars with even number plates attended on alternate days to cars with odd number plates.

Additionally, the increase in traffic is partly due to Cornwall Council closing Connon Bride HWRC to DIY waste at the beginning of January. After protests, however, Connon Bridge HWRC was opened to DIY waste again at the beginning of this week, so surely it would have been better to wait a few weeks to see if the queues reduced or not?

### 4. Surveys currently open on Cornwall Council's Let's Talk website:



**Housing Decarbonisation Strategy**

Looking at all housing to find the best ways to reduce harmful emissions, while keeping homes warm in the winter, cool in the summer and making them affordable to run.

Closes at 5pm on 16<sup>th</sup> September



**Tamar Valley  
National Landscape**

Give your feedback on the draft Tamar Valley National Landscape Management Plan 2025-2030.

Closes on 1<sup>st</sup> November