

# Town Council Report

February 15<sup>th</sup> 2026

Cllr Keith Johnson – Cornwall Councillor, Saltash Tamar Ward

## **Proposed Development – Land at Burraton Park (Adjacent to Saltash Rugby Club)**

STC Councillors will be aware of ongoing public discussion regarding the potential development of land at Burraton Park, adjacent to the Rugby Club.

At the present time, the proposal remains at pre-application and consultation stage. No formal planning application has yet been submitted. This stage allows potential issues to be identified prior to any application being lodged.

### **Highways and Traffic**

Concerns have been raised regarding existing congestion along the A38 corridor, particularly between the Burraton traffic lights and the Carkeel Roundabout. This is a recognised pressure point within the local highway network.

Should a planning application come forward, it would need to be supported by appropriate highways and transport assessments. Any impact on traffic flow and safety would be a material consideration in determining the application.

### **Loss of Green Space and Sporting Land**

The site is currently used for sporting and informal recreational purposes and is identified within the Town Plan as green space. This designation will be a relevant planning consideration.

If land used for playing fields or training purposes is proposed to be lost, Sport England would be a statutory consultee. In such circumstances, it is usual practice for Sport England to assess whether equivalent or improved provision is made elsewhere by agreement.

### **Background to Land Disposal**

The decision to dispose of the land was taken under the previous Conservative administration prior to my election in May 2025. While certain executive decisions can be called in for scrutiny, the timeframe for doing so is strictly limited and had elapsed before I was in office.

It is important to emphasise that the disposal decision does not predetermine the outcome of any subsequent planning application, which must be assessed independently and in accordance with planning policy.

### **Next Steps**

- No formal planning application has yet been submitted.
- Should an application be received, it will be subject to statutory consultation.
- I will continue to monitor developments closely.
- Residents are encouraged to engage constructively during consultation stages.

I remain committed to ensuring that community views are appropriately represented within the planning process, while maintaining a fair and policy-compliant approach to any future determination.

## Community Protest - Burraton Park

"I do not stand above the residents of Cornwall and Saltash Tamar, I stand with them.

Their hopes, their concerns, and their right to be heard guide my actions.

Today, our children's voices shout clear and loud. Let us not hang our heads in shame or turn away from our responsibility, but stand firm to protect their future.

In that spirit, I stand alongside the residents of Saltash and lend my support to their protest against the disposal of Burraton Park. When a community rises to safeguard what belongs to all, especially for the generations yet to come it is not defiance, but the highest expression of democratic duty."

## Community Chest

I'm really pleased to be able to support a few brilliant local causes through my Councillor Community Chest.

A donation of £200 to Saltash Veterans recognises the vital support they give to those who have served, and the strong sense of camaraderie they foster locally.

£200 to Saltash Foodbank helps ensure families and individuals in need are not left struggling, thanks to the compassion and commitment shown day in, day out.

And £300 to The Core Youth Services supports young people at crucial moments in their lives, helping them feel valued, supported, and hopeful for the future.

None of this would be possible without the kind volunteers behind these organisations. Their generosity, time, and quiet dedication are what truly make a difference in our community, and Saltash is stronger because of them.

## Tamar Bridge & Torpoint Ferry – Update

I've now formally lodged a request for a Task and Finish paper covering the Tamar Bridge and the Torpoint Ferry.

The request is for this work to sit within the scrutiny work programme and be delivered through the Economic Growth Scrutiny Committee.

### Why this matters

These crossings are not just transport links, they are economic lifelines for South East Cornwall. Residents depend on them to access work, education, healthcare, and essential services, while local businesses rely on them to trade, recruit, and grow.

The purpose of this Task and Finish work is to properly evidence and record the economic and social impacts of current arrangements. Those findings can then be used to lobby central government, ensuring that the case for fairer, more sustainable funding and long-term solutions is backed by clear, robust scrutiny.

The work will consider:

- The economic impact of tolls, charges, and service reliability
- The effect on commuters, families, and local businesses
- Whether current arrangements are fair, sustainable, and fit for purpose

- How these crossings align with Cornwall's wider economic growth and transport ambitions

This is about transparency, accountability, and making sure South East Cornwall's challenges are formally recognised at a national level.

I'll keep residents updated as this progresses through the scrutiny process.

## **Cornwall Youth Council**

I recently had the pleasure of attending a celebration evening at Lys Kernow to mark the conclusion of a term of service for the Cornwall Youth Council.

The Cornwall Youth Council provides young people across the county with a platform to voice their ideas, influence decision-making, and engage with local democracy.

It's a fantastic opportunity for youth to develop leadership skills, represent their communities, and contribute to projects that make a real difference.

The evening was a wonderful celebration of all they have achieved during their term, and it was inspiring to see their commitment and energy in action.

## **Cornwall Council Budget Update**

The new Cornwall Council budget has been set by the cabinet, and while it outlines funding for vital services, it is disappointing that council tax has been increased higher than inflation.

Many residents have told me they are frustrated that taxes continue to rise while essential services feel stretched or reduced. From waste collection delays to pressures on public transport and community support, people are rightly asking: "Are we getting value for money?"

It's crucial that future budgets focus on protecting essential services, delivering real value for residents, and ensuring fairness across Cornwall. I will continue to push for transparency and accountability so that our contributions are properly used to support our communities.

## **End of report**

**CC Keith Johnson**