

To receive a report on behalf of Safer Saltash and consider any actions and associated expenditure.

Report to: Full Town Council

Date of Report: 03.03.26

Officer Writing the Report: Town Clerk / RFO

Purpose of the Report

To update Full Town Council on the latest traveller preventative measures and associated actions.

Officer's Recommendation

That Members note the contents of this report, raise any questions, and share the information with their constituents to provide reassurance that traveller preventative measures remain an active and ongoing priority of Saltash Town Council.

Report Summary

Following the traveller encampments in summer 2025, Saltash Town Council has been working closely with key stakeholders to identify effective ways to protect the town from similar incidents in the future.

On 25 February, several Councillors and the Town Clerk met with Cornwall Council officers and other key partners to discuss potential preventative measures to safeguard Warfelton Field from unlawful encampments, both now and in the longer term.

Cormac presented a range of railing options to secure the site. However, concerns were raised regarding the financial cost, the likelihood that travellers may still find ways to gain access, and the potential displacement of encampments to other vulnerable areas, such as the leisure centre car park.

During the meeting, attendees also explored whether a lease from Cornwall Council to an external party could alter the powers available for eviction. It was suggested that if the land were privately owned, eviction could potentially occur within 24–48 hours under common law, whereas local authorities must generally follow more complex and

lengthier legal processes, as experienced last year. This point could not be confirmed during the meeting, but may be worth investigating further.

It was noted, however, that private landowners would bear the costs of enforcement, such as instructing bailiffs, along with the responsibility for site clean-up and repairing any damage.

The group also discussed the need for improved guidance to ensure all parties understand the correct procedures when travellers arrive in the town. Clearer guidance, shared more widely among stakeholders and the community, would help address the strong public perception last year that little was being done to manage or remove the unlawful encampment.

Additionally, the Town Clerk has contacted Cornwall Council to enquire whether there are plans to reinstate the regular Safer Saltash meetings, as it was felt they provided valuable support to the town.

Signature of Officer:

Town Clerk / RFO