

South East Cornwall Community Area Partnership

Action Notes

Meeting:	South East Cornwall Community Area Partnership Extraordinary Meeting – Tamar Tag fee consultation
Date & time:	Thursday 12 March 2026 (5.30pm-6.30pm)
Location:	Online MS Teams Meeting
Attendance & apologies:	See attendance list attached

Item	Notes
1.	<p>Welcome and Introductions</p> <p>The CAP Chair, Cornwall Councillor Jane Pascoe welcomed all present.</p> <p>A particular welcome was extended to representatives of the Tamar to Moor CAP who were also invited to join the meeting.</p>
2.	<p>Declarations of Interest</p> <p>There were no declarations of interest.</p>
3.	<p>Tamar Tag Fee Consultation – Philip Robinson, Chief Officer, Tamar Crossings</p> <p>Philip outlined the background to the consultation and that the administration of the Tamar Tag scheme currently costs more than it generates from the monthly admin fee, meaning other parts of the business were subsidising it and that it was not financially sustainable.</p> <p>The consultation was taking place throughout March, and in recognition of the stakeholder role of the South East Cornwall CAP, the meeting had been arranged to enable Tamar Crossings to provide an insight into the process and an opportunity for the CAP to feed into this.</p> <p>A Q&A session followed.</p> <p>Q. By increasing the TAG admin fee, does this mean we won't have a further toll increase in the future? A. We cannot promise this. We live in uncertain times with increasing costs, inflation etc, however, the proposed increase would avoid the immediate need to reduce the tag discount or further increase tolls and help prevent deeper cuts to services or maintenance. It will also provide the ability for better planning in a more structured way.</p> <p>Q. What happens if the bridge goes bust? A. The parent authorities would need to consider making a provision in their medium and long-term plans – if this is not viable, government would intervene.</p> <p>Q. Have you factored in that people might hand their tags back if the increase goes ahead?</p>

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A. Yes this has been considered as part of our financial forecasting, it's a very complex set of figures and also takes account of any potential impact on the ferry income, but we have forecasted as best as we can.

C. You refer to more people working from home as a contributory factor but data shows that traffic has doubled in Calstock, Gunnislake and surrounding parishes in the last 3 years since the tolls were increased. Recent Speedwatch data also shows a significant increase through Calstock during the ongoing maintenance works.

A. This will require some follow up work, which is currently outside the scope of the consultation, but will help inform our Open Road Tolling aspirations and we will be in discussion with the consultants who are developing the business case.

Q. It feels like the South East Cornwall residents are paying the brunt, which is unfair as they have no realistic alternative route. Have you thought of raising the charge for visitors coming into Cornwall? Are the MPs fully involved?

A. Yes the MPs are fully engaged and supportive of the consultation. A Tamar Summit is planned for mid-May and all of Cornwall's MPs will be invited. MPs recognise that the Tag is the mechanism for providing cheaper tolls for locals, mindful that any increase in the Tag administration fee will make the cost/benefit calculation for those infrequent users less attractive.

Q. Statutory change looks like the only option. It needs to be recognised as a national strategic asset particularly with the Devonport defence investment.

A. It's very complex due to the unique relationship between the bridge and the ferry. But this is something we wish to explore when considering the Economic, Social and Environmental benefits of both crossings.

Q. Is there a plan to use Automatic Number Plate Recognition (ANPR)?

A. It's the aspiration of the Joint Committee to have open road tolling supported by ANPR but funding is the issue as it would cost in the region of £10-15M – a business case is being developed and will be presented to the Joint Committee in June.

Q. We already have significant congestion and emissions issues with further developments planned. Prior to any ANPR scheme being introduced would there be a detailed traffic survey to give a clear understanding of any potential displacement of traffic to surrounding areas?

A. ANPR would help alleviate congestion/emission issues as it would reduce queuing. Further studies will help inform our business case for ORT and will be considered alongside any future growth aspirations for Devon, Plymouth and Cornwall.

Q. Additional consultation events were requested particularly for the Liskeard and Callington areas to assist the outlying rural parishes.

A. There is a limited budget available but Philip to consider if this will be possible. Catherine to recirculate the consultation link to everyone on the Sout East

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	<p>Cornwall CAP distribution list. Philip was asked if a 'snapshot' could be provided for town and parish newsletters. <i>Post meeting:</i> New event in Liskeard on Monday 30th March.</p> <p>Q. Are paper copies of the consultation survey available? A. Philip to look into how this might be achieved. <i>Post meeting:</i> Paper copies will be available at each of the drop-in sessions. Also, we have now sent the e-link to each of the CAPs, so that copies can be completed and handed directly back to the consultants. We have been allocated a finite budget and are planning to keep well within the ceiling of £10k.</p> <p>Q. The report contains a significant figure of £65k for postage expenditure but my posted tag did not work and I had to collect from the Saltash office! A. Philip to look into this issue. The consultation will provide us with further feedback on how we move the service forward. It is highly likely that we will ask people who are unable to pick up their tag to pay for postage. In instances where the tag does not function, we will then cover the cost of any replacement tag.</p> <p>Q. Staffing costs were queried. A. On average most salaries are less than their counterparts and are set by a local government body.</p> <p>Q. What is the future lifespan of the bridge? A. Current cost of replacing the bridge is £220M. The lifespan is 120 years – but it's hoped to go beyond 2081 as well maintained. The ferry lifespan is 2035 but also hope to go beyond this as a good update programme is in place and it is much cheaper to maintain than replace.</p> <p>Q. If ferry replacement in 2035 is needed, how confident are you that the existing budget will be able to replace what is needed? A. This is part of the financial planning challenges we are facing - we have looked at various options including hydrogen, overnight charging and electric. An update will be presented to the Joint Committee on the 13 March.</p> <p>Philip wished to reassure the CAP that the consultation was not just a tick-box exercise and encouraged everyone to respond and to help circulate as widely as possible. The consultation deadline was the 6 April 2026. A report would then be written by independent consultants and presented to the Joint Committee on the 6 June.</p> <p>The Chair on behalf of the CAP thanked Philip for attending the meeting and answering the questions raised and thanked everyone for their input.</p>
4.	<p>Next Community Area Partnership Meeting: Tuesday 7 April 2026 (face-to-face) – venue to be confirmed.</p>

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Attendance List: 12 March 2026

Representatives	Record of Attendance
Cornwall Councillors	
Kevin Grey (Liskeard Central)	Not present
Jim Gale (Lynher)	Present
Kate Ewert (Rame Peninsula & St Germans)	Present
Jim Candy (Looe West, Pelynt, Lansallos & Lanteglos)	Present
Hilary Frank (Saltash Essa)	Present
Keith Johnson (Saltash Tamar)	Present
Sarah Preece (Lostwithiel & Lanreath)	Apologies received
Jane Pascoe (Liskeard South & Dobwalls)	Present
Sean Smith (St Cleer & Menheniot)	Not present
Rob Parsonage (Torpoint)	Present
Mark Gibbons (Looe East & Deviock)	Present
Paul Cador (Saltash Trematon & Landrake)	Present
Town & Parish Councils (<i>Town & Parish Councils are in the process of appointing their single named voting representatives to the CAPs; where these have been confirmed by the Clerk, these are shown below</i>)	
Antony Parish Council: Councillor Peter Bulmer (named representative)	Not present
Botus Fleming Parish Council: Apologies received from Councillor John Robinson	Apologies received
Deviock Parish Council: Councillor Mark Bloor	Present
Dobwalls Parish Council: Councillor Tracey Kitto (named representative)	Not present
Duloe Parish Council: Councillor Phil Hallworth (named representative)	Not present
Landrake-with-St Erney Parish Council	Not present
Landulph Parish Council: Councillor Clare Tagg	Present
Lanreath Parish Council: Councillor David Heard (named representative)	Present
Lanteglos-by-Fowey Parish Council	Not present
Liskeard Town Council: Councillor Christina Whitty (named representative)	Present
Looe Town Council: Councillor James Lundy (named representative)	Present
Maker with Rame Parish Council: Apologies received from Councillor Rebecca Lingard	Apologies received
Menheniot Parish Council: Councillor Adrian Cole (named representative)	Not present
Millbrook Parish Council: Councillor Dale Moorey (named representative)	Present
Morval Parish Council	Not present
Pelynt Parish Council	Not present
Polperro Community Council	Not present
Quethiock Parish Council: Councillor John Blatchford (named representative)	Not present
Saltash Town Council: Councillor Steve Miller	Present
Sheviock Parish Council:	Present
St Cleer Parish Council	Not present
St Germans Parish Council: Councillor Alan Hodge (named representative)	Present
St John Parish Council	Not present
St Keyne & Trewidland Parish Council: Councillor Sarah Whiting (named representative)	Not present
St Martin-by-Looe Parish Council	Not present

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St Neot Parish Council	Not present
St Pinnock Parish Council: Councillor Julian Dingle	Present
Torpoint Town Council: Councillor Gary Davis (named representative) and Milly Southworth (Clerk)	Present
Warleggan Parish Meeting	Not present
Representatives of Tamar to Moor Community Area Partnership present at this meeting	
Cornwall Councillor Damon Dennis - Launceston South	
Councillor John Wells – Calstock Parish Council	
Councillor Paul O’Brien – Launceston Town Council	
Linda Coles – Clerk, Lewannick Parish Council	
Councillor Carl Hearn – Linkinhorne Parish Council/Chair of Tamar to Moor CAP	
Councillor Andrew Budd – South Hill Parish Council	
Councillor Alan Cox – St Dominic Parish Council	
Councillor David Fry – St Dominic Parish Council	
Councillor Joan Heaton – St Stephens by Launceston Rural Parish Council	
Chris Sims – Community Link Officer, Tamar to Moor CAP	
Representatives of other organisations present at the meeting	
Philip Robinson – Chief Officer, Tamar Crossings	
Les Allen – Tamar 2025, Cornwall Council	
Members of the public	
No members of the public were in attendance.	
Community Area Partnership officer team	
Catherine Thomson (Community Link Officer, Cornwall Council)	Present
Lisa Grigg (Community Support Assistant, Cornwall Council)	Present
Louise Wood (Cornwall Council Leadership Team Representative/Service Director – Planning & Housing, Cornwall Council)	Not present