

# Community Engagement & the Democratic Deficit

Prepared for South East Cornwall  
Community Area Partnership

April 2026

# What are you? and what do you do?



Vicar of Dibley

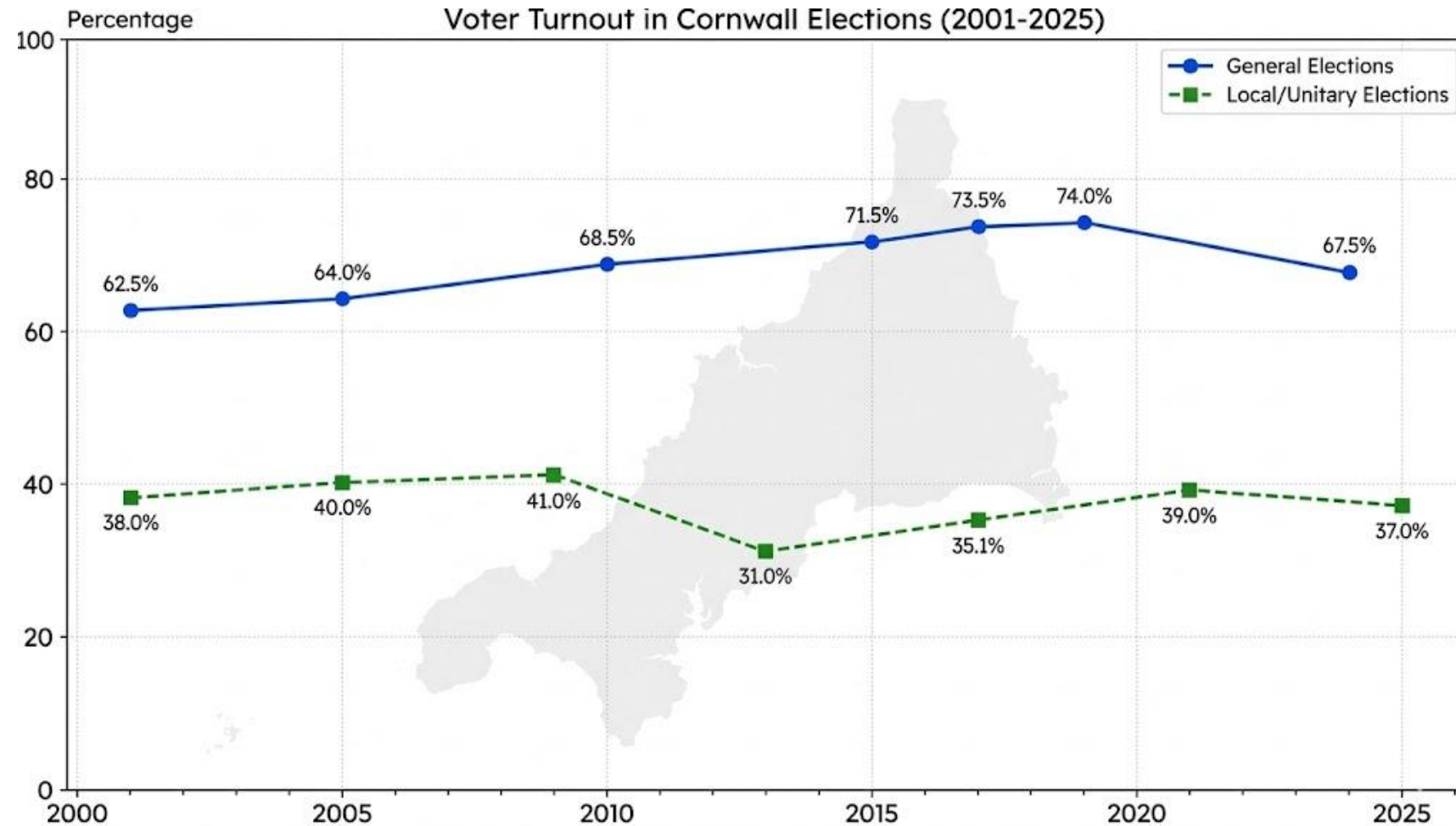


Jackie Weaver

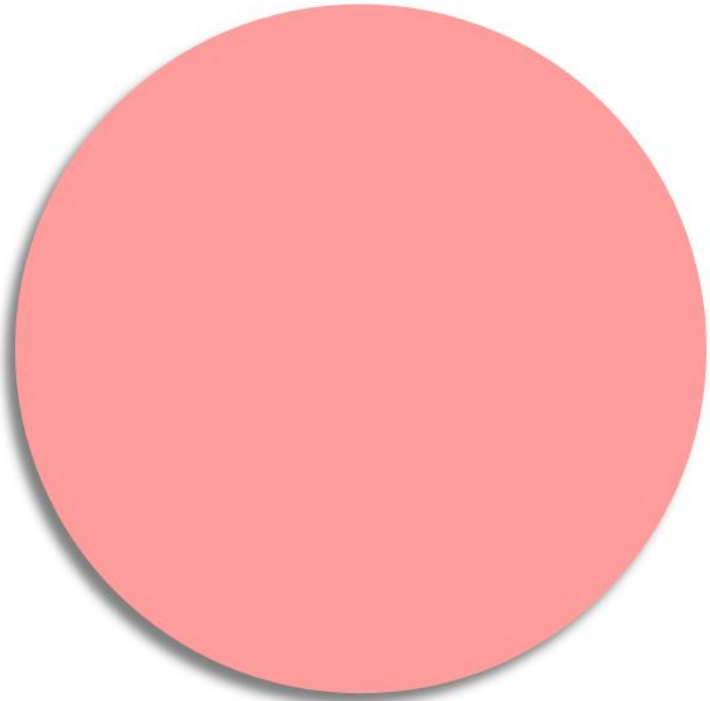


Cornwall Council

# Turnout at elections Elections 2000-2025



# Contested elections? 12 Divisions in South East Cornwall CAP

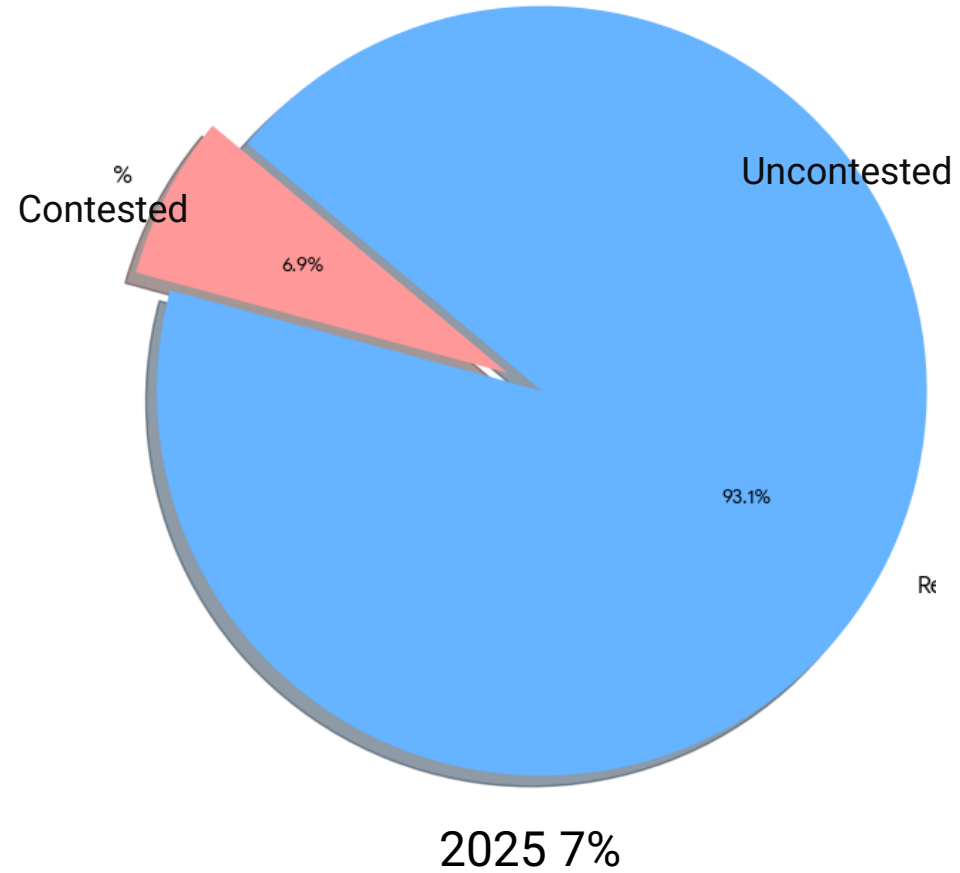
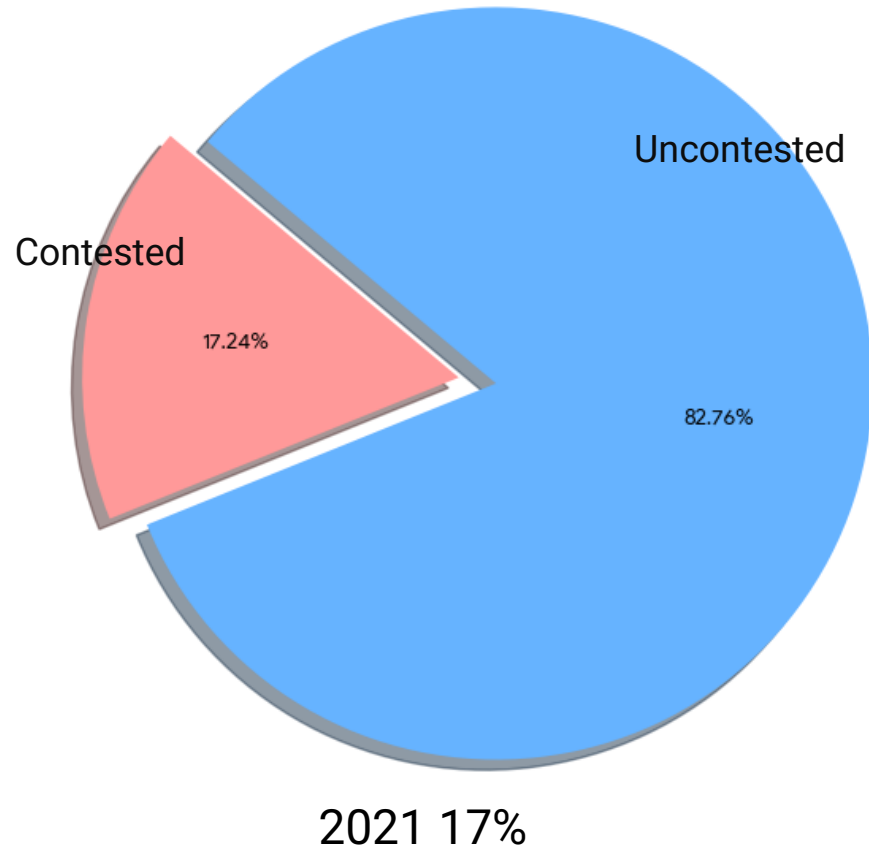


2021 100%



2025 100%

# Contested elections? 29 Parishes in South East Cornwall CAP



## Why the lower turnout?

### Voters say . . .

#### The "Information Deficit"

- Lack of Candidate Knowledge
- Decline of Local News
- Role Confusion

#### Logistical and Pragmatic Barriers

- Too Busy
- Voter ID & Registration
- Timing

## Why the lower turnout?

### Voters say . . .

#### Political Apathy and 'Efficacy'

- Safe Seats
- Voter Depression/Fatigue
- Referendum Effect

#### Demographic Trends

- Age Gap
- Renters v Homeowners

# What does the electorate think of you?

*How much, if anything, would you say you know about . . . .*

A great deal / fair amount

Not very much / nothing at all

...the work of Members of Parliament in Westminster?

42%  
+0

56%  
+1

...the work of your local councillors?

35%  
+1

64%  
+1

...how decisions are taken in your local council?

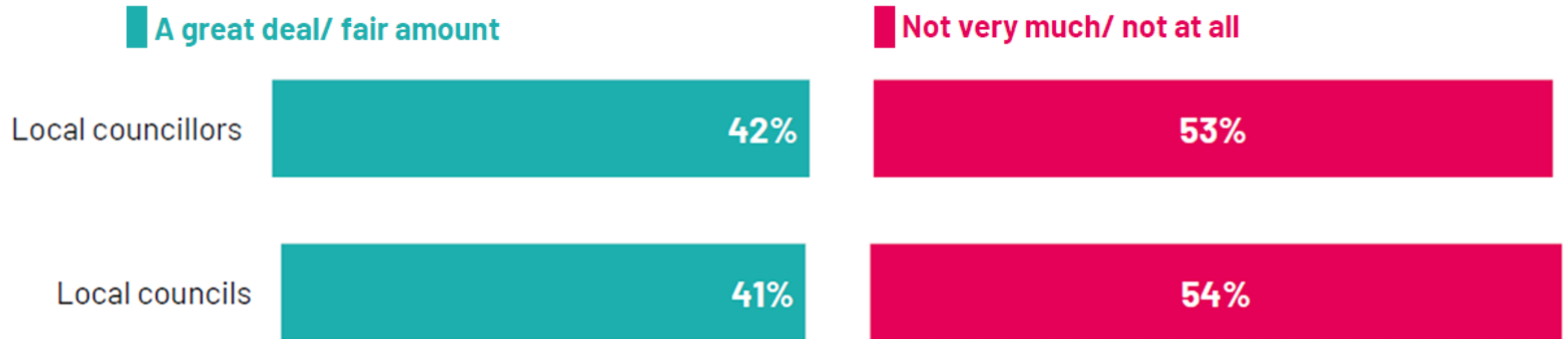
35%  
+3

63%  
-2

( + / - changes since 2024)

# What does the electorate think of you?

*To what extent, if at all, do you trust the following to act in the best interests of the people they represent?*



Can you ever do enough to  
engage and communicate?

*Thank you!*

