

CALLINGTON VOICE



Tamar Bridge Update

The Tamar Bridge and Torpoint Ferry form really important access corridors for thousands of people in South East Cornwall to get access to vital services that they cannot get in our part of the Duchy.

Our only major trauma hospital is in Derriford, the law courts and multiple facilities are located east of the Tamar. So for many people we have no alternative but to use the two crossings and as such it is frustrating to say the least that the Tolls for using this facility have been rising at an incredible rate. At the same time National Highways moved their main A38 trunk road to use the Tamar Bridge in the 70s but have not paid a single penny for that privilege. Instead the people of Cornwall and Plymouth have to fit the bill either through Tolls or through funding from the two local authorities.

At the last meeting of the joint committee I, along with other Cornish Councillors, argued strongly against an attempt to further increase the tolls and instead demanded that the two Councils, along with our MPs, contact the government once again and try to sort out the issue of fair funding. There is now a consultation on the future of the bridge and ferry funding. Please take part.

Nowodhow Rag Konsel Kernow/ Cornwall Council News

Fight back needed for our Town

It is fair to say that the Town Centre is under threat like never before at the present time. Whether its Car Park Charges, the closure of banks, or the rise in internet shopping, the traditional High Street shopping experience has changed. Our town is not alone in this and many towns across Cornwall and the UK are under the cosh and struggling to survive.

I have been fighting to get this current administration to change its mind on the introduction of a £1 first hour charge and it is evident that this has had a major negative impact on the vitality of our Town Centre. The imminent loss of our last high street bank, Lloyds, will also badly affect the community.

However, whilst there is much negative publicity around, some people are fighting back and looking to how we can adapt and survive as a Town. Moves are afoot to start up a new Business group for the Town who will be looking to work with the community to bring life back to our community.

There is a lot of good going in the Town. Whether its the weekly country market, the monthly Sunday market, or the 65 clubs and organisations that bring life to our community, there are people who care about our town and the people in it.

Life is about choices and we can all make some that will directly support our community, like buying local from one of the many farmers and food producers, using the shops and businesses in the town.

Together we can make a difference. It is not all about waiting for someone else, we can all make a positive change that can bring rich rewards for our town.

Urban Terrace

Work has continued apace at Urban Terrace to build the 15 modern homes under Treveth (Cornwall Housing) and there is good news in the offing. Work is going well and the contractors are looking to start moving residents back in to the estate in the New Year.

The original houses had to be demolished when it became clear that the blocks used were Mundic and as such were becoming dangerous.

The start was delayed when the original contractors went into administration but once a new company had been signed up the work commenced.

All of the properties will be rented under the Affordable Housing system and the Cornish connection criteria will be used. It is also good that a number of residents of the original houses, who have been in rented accommodation but requested that they move back, will be among the first to return to the new estate.

The exact dates for occupation have yet to be agreed but as soon as I get these I will get the publicity out again across the social media.

Cornwall Council allocates affordable housing under the Housing Needs system and people are graded as to their need when signing up to the scheme.

Protection of People who have been in care

People in Cornwall who've experienced being in the children's social care system are now going to be better protected following the Council decision to treat care experience as a 'protected characteristic' under the Equality Act 2010 which makes it against the Law to discriminate against someone because of a protected Characteristic.

This is good news but it is also important the the correct support is given to people exiting, entering, or in the care sector to ensure they have the maximum opportunity to grow and contribute to society.

New Campaign to Stop Smoking launched

October is just around the corner and smokers in Cornwall are being urged to stub out their habit as part of the national Stoptober campaign. Quitting is one of the best things a smoker can do for their health, allowing them to move better and breath more easily, and leave them with more money to spend. Other benefits of quitting include Reducing the risks of smoking-related diseases, boosting mental health and wellbeing and saving the average smoker around £2,500 per year.

Research given to Cornwall Council suggests that you are three times more likely to succeed with the right support - so people are being encouraged to test SMOKEFREE to 82228 for regular support before, during and after your quit attempt.

November Surgeries

I have three Surgeries in October - all from 10am to 12 Noon

4th November - at St Dominic Village Hall

18th November - at Callington Town Hall Pannier Market

25th November - at Callington Town Hall Pannier Market