

Report March 2024

Good evening,

Since my last report the planning inspector has visited Milland farm at Demelza to determine the appeal reference unlawful occupancy and the placement of a home on the site. The inspector agreed with Cornwall Council and the appeal has been lost. The occupant will now be given a short time to vacate the site before formal eviction will take place.

I attended a meeting of the Cornwall Newquay Airport Forum, passenger numbers are now back at pre pandemic levels with 380,000 passengers carried, 5282 commercial flights, 18511 movements, 40% of which are Ryan Air, A memo of Understanding has been signed on one of the big hangers at the site. Spaceport is also hoping to secure a new deal with a proven horizontal take off provider, but they would not say who at this point. Plans are being laid for new terminal improvements incorporating a new build of the passenger security checkpoint.

I also attended, at the invitation of the chairman of Cornwall Councils Economic Growth and Development Committee, a confidential meeting at the Airport where project corduroy was discussed. This is the plan to try and bring in private sector investment to the airport. I can tell you that it is hoped that from the number of interested parties there is the possibility that an investor may be found. This is not a certainty but if they do, this will alleviate the current four million pound a year subsidy currently being paid by Cornwall's taxpayers.

I attended Full Council at County Hall on the 20th of February where the 2024/25 budget was presented to Council. None of the so-called opposition parties presented an alternative budget so the administration budget went through. This means a 4.99% increase in Council Tax bills plus an increased from the police and crime commissioner.

As you are aware Mr Alan Bennallick has put in a planning application to build two homes for his daughters at Rosenannon. I am aware that St Wenn PC has supported this however, the planning officer is minded refusing. She says this is in line with her pre-application advice issued under PA22/02016/PREAPP which advised the proposal wouldn't be considered compliant with Policy 3, the site has potential for a Policy 9 proposal however the applicants haven't put forward for affordable dwellings therefore it remains to be considered under Policy 3. She says the proposal also conflicts with the definition of infill in the Chief Officer Advice Note and that the proposal results in a loss of farmland for a very low density development with both plots being very large within the site. She has asked the agent to respond by the end of Wednesday (tomorrow) as to whether they wish to continue with the application or withdraw. That is a matter for Mr Bennallick and his agent. If the officer refuses, I will be calling the application into committee for consideration.

I attended a member briefing on the new stretch of the A30 from Carland Cross to Chiverton. Work is progressing however, as you can imagine with the extremely wet weather, we've all experienced has had an adverse effect on work. The new estimated time for completion is now June this year.