

Annual report (2025-2026) from Cllr Dick Cole, Cornwall Councillor for the St Dennis & St Enoder division

This report includes some examples of the work that I have carried out over the last 12 months. It is not an exhaustive list.

1.0 Council positions

During the last year, I served as the chairman of the Constitution and Governance Committee, the Fifth Nation [Cornish National Minority] Working Group and the China Clay Area and Luxulyan Community Area Partnership. I continue to be the leader of the MK Group on the authority. I was also a member of the Customers and Support Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee and I have also attended a wide range of related meetings – both in person and via TEAMS / ZOOM video-conferencing.

In addition, I have attended the main council meetings of St Dennis Parish Council. I am a member of the St Dennis and Nanpean Community Trust (which distributes the funding generated by the planning agreement linked to the incinerator). I also attended meetings of the incinerator liaison group and the Cornish Lithium Liaison Group.

2.0 Cornish Lithium

During the last 12 months, I have attended numerous meetings relating to this s. This has included many of the events linked to their non-statutory consultation and the statutory consultation, which took place between 2nd March and 13th April 2026. I was present at eight sessions of the recent consultation.

I have spoken to a number of local residents about their views on the project and I have had many conversations about their concerns. These include fears about noise and dust, traffic, impacts on the local environment [both natural and historic], water disposal arrangements [particularly near the Tregargus Valley], the workability of restoration conditions, etc. I have also lobbied for the proposed multi-use trail link to the Goss Moor.

At the various liaison group meetings, I have not been afraid to challenge Cornish Lithium on aspects on their proposal, and I am continuing to seek information about what local people think about the proposal, in order to ensure that these views can be well-presented during the planning process which will follow.

3.0 Proposed solar farm at Trerice

Last year, the proposal for a 32MW solar farm at Trerice was refused by Cornwall Council. The applicant has appealed to the Planning Inspectorate and a hearing will be held at The Pitch on 12th May.

I prepared an addendum to the Parish Council's representation to this appeal. It concentrates on the historic importance of the Trerice area, the impact of the proposed development on the character of the local landscape and the

cumulative impact of industrial developments on St Dennis and surrounding China Clay Area.

In summary, the 4,000-word document noted how the parish of St Dennis comprises approximately 1,250 hectares, which includes 350 hectares of the Goss Moor and how, of the remaining 900 hectares, more than 255 hectares (28%) have been industrialised. The western part of St Dennis Parish meanwhile comprises a medieval landscape of great time-depth comprising farmland associated with a number of ancient farms with origins dating back over one thousand years.

4.0 Road safety matters

Residents have brought a wide range of concerns to me about the condition of local roads and related safety matters, which I continue to report to Cormac / Cornwall Council.

In particular, this has included the stretch of highway including Carne Hill, Fore Street and Trelavour Road. I am pleased that this area has made it to the "top of the list" and the resurfacing of various bits of this road have been provisionally timetabled for August. I have yet to see the detailed mapping of which areas will be improved, and I will update further when I get additional information.

I am continuing to make lobby local officers about further works, especially around Domellick Bridge, which I think needs meaningful resurfacing in addition to the emergency patching that was done recently.

5.0 My work with St Dennis Parish Council

I have worked with the councillors on the Parish Council throughout the last year, giving advice and support as best I can.

I am pleased that the transfer of the play area in Hall Road from Cornwall Council to the Parish Council has been completed and it is good that we have commenced working on the plans to improve the site.

I also took forward an application, on behalf of the Parish Council, for welcome signs to St Dennis Parish and signage for a number of rural settlements including Enniscaven, Gothers and Trerice Terrace. Unfortunately, the grant application was unsuccessful, but the Parish Council has agreed to take this project forward with alternative funding.

6.0 My work at Cornwall Council

Over the last 12 months, I have worked on numerous issues. This has included the lack of funding for the unitary authority and the communities of Cornwall. Linked to this, at the last meeting of the unitary authority, I seconded a motion challenging central government on why no Cornish communities got funding from the Pride in Place programme.

I have spent a lot of time on planning policy matters. This has included opposing the imposition of an unsustainable housing target on Cornwall, which has

undermined the weight that can be afforded to housing policies in the Cornwall Local Plan and Neighbourhood Plans. As a consequence, no progress has been made on a NDP for St Dennis Parish.

In addition, I have been at the forefront of campaigns for meaningful devolution to Cornwall, which has included a successful motion at Cornwall Council.

7.0 Reporting back

I continue to present a monthly written report to meetings of St Dennis Parish Council and also contribute monthly news updates for publication in the St Austell Voice newspaper and the St Dennis News magazine.

My monthly reports are also placed on my new website: cllr dick cole.org.

8.0 Assistance for local people

Over the 12 months, I have given advice and support to a large number of people on a vast range of issues and I continue to be available on 07791 876607 or cllr.dick.cole@cornwall.gov.uk.

I would like to thank parish councillors and others for their help and support during the 2025-2026. It has been much appreciated.