

## CORNWALL COUNCILLOR UPDATE FOR APRIL 2024



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### Cornwall Council and around the Peninsula–

The new waste collection started early in April - there have been several issues that have come to light around whole streets that have not been included in the food waste collections, and far too many residents that have not had their proper bins delivered. I am dealing with these on a case by case basis as residents contact me about them. But it is a slow and clunky process.

In terms of questions that have been raised - there is still assisted waste collections available, these are organised in the same way as they always have been through this [LINK](#) - there is a phone number on there as well for those that don't use the internet. If residents have had the wrong bins delivered they can report that [HERE](#)

Further information can be found at the following link -

<https://www.cornwall.gov.uk/rubbish-recycling-and-waste/new-food-waste-recycling-and-rubbish-service/talk-to-us-face-to-face-at-a-community-roadshow/>

### Roadside Verges - No Mow May changes to LOW Mow May

We are at that time of year again where there is an increase in complaints about the length of the grasses on roadside verges, usually by this point we have had numerous communications from Cornwall Council about 'No Mow May', but this year it has been very quiet. Instead of No Mow May, apparently we are doing Low Mow May, we are told that this means that roadside verges are trimmed for safety and parks and play areas are mowed but where it is safe it is left to grow for the pollinators etc. In practice, I am sure this will not please people and everyone has a view on what is safe and what is not. I would encourage folk to report any verges they feel are unsafe, or are blocking sight lines on the Cornwall Council report it tool online. Once reported, they are inspected according to the Government's safety specifications and cut if required. I know there is always a lot of strong feelings about this, but please also bear in mind that we have had a lot of rain and then a good spell of sunshine which means everything has gone a bit wild!

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### Highways Reporting

I would like to remind Parish Councillors that they or a member of the public are able to report issues with the highways, or anything else that is managed by Cornwall Council. I am always happy to chase reports up if they are not actioned, or if you do not get the result you are expecting. The link to the website is <https://www.cornwall.gov.uk/report-something/>

### Full Council

In April's Full Council meeting we had an interesting motion brought forward about the use of farm land for solar panels. It is a tricky balance when sitting on planning committees looking at these applications, as the National Planning Policy Framework says that agricultural land that is graded 3a and 3b can be used for solar farms - but in Cornwall a lot of our farm land is graded 3a and 3b and is versatile and used productively. We heard that only a tiny percentage of farmland in Cornwall has solar panels on it, which surprised many, and also that we wanted to support farmers that wanted to diversify on their land by installing panels. In the end, the decision was made for our farmland grading to be looked at in fine detail so that when these planning applications come to committee, local members on the planning committees can make the right decisions for Cornwall. It was a good example of the cross party work that we do on Cornwall Council, and a good example of a debate that didn't turn in to a bun fight!