

Cornwall Councillor Report – Mullion Parish Council – October 2025

I hope you are all well as the weather cools and the nights draw in. Please find a breakdown of Cornwall Council's decisions, and the activities I have undertaken in my role on your behalf.

Fire Co-Responders

At the Health and Adult Social Care Scrutiny Committee meeting on October 8th (which the Parish Chair, Cllr Rule, attended as a member of the public), I raised concerns about the future of Fire Co-Responders and the support for Community First Responders (CFRs).

I challenged representatives from the South Western Ambulance Service Trust (SWAST) on the lack of transparency around CFR retention rates. The data provided to Councillors was disappointingly broad, failing to reflect the realities faced in places like Mullion and other rural areas where recruitment is most difficult.

SWAST acknowledged the challenges and gave a commitment not to withdraw Co-Responding services until a suitable backfill arrangement is in place. However, when pressed on what "suitable" means, the response was vague and unsatisfactory.

While I welcome the assurance that Co-Responding won't be switched off prematurely, this must not become a hollow promise. I will continue to press for a clear, accountable plan which *guarantees* the continuation of Co-Responding alongside a meaningful increase in the number of Community First Responders.

As stated at the beginning of this campaign, this is not about replacing one service with another. It's about ensuring that the safety and wellbeing of our residents remains the priority.

Climate Targets

On 7th October, I chaired a meeting of the Sustainable Growth and Place Overview and Scrutiny Committee. We were presented with a challenging reality: Cornwall Council's ambition to reach net zero carbon emissions by 2030 is slipping beyond reach.

Since the target was set in 2019, emissions have only fallen by around 2–3% annually. Officers, recognising the scale of the challenge, recommended a revised target of 2045. After thoughtful and sometimes difficult debate, the Committee agreed to pass this recommendation to Cabinet. Some members abstained, believing that Net Zero targets should be abandoned altogether.

Ultimately, we should be honest about what can be achieved with current technologies and within the constraints of public budgets. The Council still aims to generate 100% of its electricity from renewable sources by 2035, reach a 65% recycling rate by the same year, and cut overall emissions by 90% by 2040.

Though I am disappointed that the target has been delayed, we should also ensure our commitments are achievable and push back against any desire to scrap our climate commitments entirely.

Anti-social Behaviour in Mullion

Anti-social behaviour across Mullion and the wider Lizard Peninsula are continuing to cause concern and anger. I've raised this directly with our local police, who are actively seeking clear evidence to identify those behind these acts; I had a meeting just today (October 21st) regarding the recent vandalism in Mullion's playground, with furniture destroyed and strewn across the site. I'm hopeful that CCTV footage will help pinpoint those responsible and allow the police to take appropriate action.

Student Bus Provision to Truro College

I've raised concerns with Martin Tucker, Principal of Truro and Penwith College, about the difficulties students face when trying to reach Truro College by bus, particularly those travelling from the Lizard Peninsula. I've yet to receive a response.

However, I welcome a recent improvement: the changeover bus in Helston will now wait for students arriving from the Lizard before continuing to Truro. This modest adjustment should help ensure that delays don't leave students stranded.

Of course, this is no substitute for a direct route, which was previously provided and should be reinstated. I'll continue to press for a practical solution. Once I hear back from Martin Tucker, I'll ensure Parish Councils are kept fully informed.

The next meeting of the Full Council will occur on November 24th, 2025.

As ever, should you require my assistance, please email at cllr.rory.gow@cornwall.gov.uk.