

UPDATE FROM CORNWALL COUNCILLOR SEAN SMITH

Councillor Sean Smith presented his latest report to Menheniot Parish Council on 17th September 2026.

A38 SAFETY – APPROXIMATELY 50 YEARS OF CONCERN

The A38 between Trerulefoot and Liskeard was opened at around 1976. This means that the road is now approximately 50 years old.

I attended meetings with National Highways and the A38 group to discuss the continuing safety concerns, proposed changes to crossing and turning arrangements, and the risk of traffic being displaced onto local roads.

The historical information currently available to me indicates that between 1978 and 2025 this section of the A38 recorded:

- **29 fatalities.**
- **160 people seriously injured.**
- **690 people slightly injured; and**
- **879 casualties in total.**

For the more recent period between 2001 and 2025, the figures indicate:

- **10 fatalities.**
- **70 people seriously injured.**
- **393 people slightly injured; and**
- **473 casualties in total.**

Public information does not appear to be available for the first years after the road opened, between approximately 1976 and 1978.

I have asked for these figures and the underlying records to be checked and clarified. However, the available figures demonstrate why improvements to the safety of this section of the A38 are so important.

I will continue representing Menheniot and the surrounding communities through the A38 Review Committee. I have also been elected to the A38 Campaign Committee.

A further public consultation meeting is expected to take place in Liskeard on 5 October. Further details will be provided when confirmed.

SCHOOL SAFETY AND HIGHWAYS

The School Safety Highways Grant application has progressed to the design stage. Adrian and I will continue monitoring its progress and seeking updates from Cornwall Highways.

We have also toured the parish to identify areas where weed treatment and verge maintenance remain a concern. We are asking Cornwall Highways to provide a clear and reliable maintenance programme for the next growing season.

I have again chased Cornwall Highways about the faded 50 mph signs on the A390. Replacement signs are on order, but I have not yet been given a firm installation date.

COMMUNITY TRANSPORT

The rescheduled Community Transport Conference is due to take place on 30 September, and I intend to attend.

Work is progressing on possible community transport arrangements for Menheniot, Merrymeet, Pengover, Doddycross, Bethany and the surrounding rural communities.

A community transport survey has been prepared to gather evidence about:

- the journeys residents need.
- preferred days and times.
- access to Liskeard, Saltash and Derriford Hospital.
- problems caused by limited bus services; and
- the number of residents affected by rural isolation.

I also sit on Cornwall Council's Bus Working Group, where I will continue to raise the transport needs of our rural communities.

COMMUNITY CHEST FUNDING

My Community Chest Fund has made the following allocations:

- £200 to Little Owls.
- £50 to the Poads Trust towards winter flowers; and
- £150 to Menheniot Cherry Fayre.

I will consider further suitable community projects when funding becomes available for the next financial year, subject to Cornwall Council's grant requirements.

TENCREEK HOUSING

The revised Tencreek arrangements include:

- additional social-rent homes prioritised through a local lettings plan for Menheniot.
- a Section 106 connection between Menheniot and Liskeard; and
- a specially designed four-bedroom accessible bungalow.

I will continue monitoring the development to ensure that the promised local housing benefits are protected and delivered.

SOUTH WEST WATER

I attended the joint Community Area Partnership meeting with South West Water on 3 September.

A number of questions were submitted, but much of the meeting consisted of a presentation, with limited opportunity for detailed answers. Written responses are now awaited.

I am also continuing to seek information about the roadworks and water leak near the shop, including the repair, reopening of the road and steps being taken to prevent further disruption.

DEVOLUTION AND THE MAYORAL QUESTION

I raised whether Cornwall's proposed devolution arrangements could eventually lead to an elected mayor.

I sought a clear public assurance that Cornwall Council's position remains that a mayor will not be introduced through the back door of devolution.

I will continue monitoring the proposed Foundation Strategic Authority and asking questions about its powers, costs, funding, and democratic accountability.

CORNWALL COUNCIL'S CAPITAL PROGRAMME

At Full Council, I questioned a reported £2.8 million discrepancy in an earlier Cabinet recommendation concerning the capital programme.

As a detailed answer was not provided in the chamber, I submitted a written follow-up requesting:

- a full explanation of how the error occurred.
- confirmation of whether any decision or financial record was affected.
- details of checks undertaken across the wider capital programme; and
- assurance that checking procedures have been strengthened.

OTHER FULL COUNCIL MATTERS

The Council also discussed:

- the financial support provided to Newquay Airport.
- the possible introduction of a visitor levy.
- social and affordable housing.
- clearer information for people on the housing register.
- standards for public consultation; and
- climate resilience and adaptation.

I will continue asking for clear evidence, value for money and openness about any costs falling on Cornwall's taxpayers.

COMMITTEES AND LOCAL CASEWORK

I currently serve on Cornwall Council's:

- Community Wellbeing Overview and Scrutiny Committee.
- Cornwall Pension Fund Committee.
- Constitution and Governance Committee.
- A38 Review Committee.
- Community Area Partnership.
- A38 Campaign Committee; and
- Bus Working Group.

Alongside these responsibilities, I continue dealing with casework and residents' enquiries across St Cleer, Menheniot, St Neot and Warleggan.

My priorities remain improving road and transport safety, protecting the voice of rural communities, securing value for taxpayers, and ensuring residents are properly involved in decisions affecting them.

Cllr Sean Smith

Cornwall Councillor for St Cleer and Menheniot

Kind Regards
Cllr Sean Smith
Tel 07912465100