

Annual Report from the Parish Council Chair 2025-2026

St Keyne & Trewidland Parish Council
Cllr Sarah Whiting

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After serving as Chair for the past 12 months, I would like to extend my sincere thanks to everyone for their continued hard work and dedication. With two current vacancies on the Parish Council, everyone has had to contribute more, and I am extremely grateful for the commitment shown by all members.

I would like to thank Lindsey and Jonathan Ellis for stepping into the role of Vice Chairs and for their ongoing support. A special mention must go to our Clerk, John Hesketh, whose knowledge, professionalism, and guidance has been invaluable—without his expertise, the smooth running of the Council would not be possible.

My thanks also go to our Cornwall Councillors, Jane Pascoe and Mark Gibbons. Mark has taken on the role from Armand and has proven to be an excellent addition, rising admirably to the challenges presented.

Financial

As a Parish Council we decided to only increase the precept on the Council Tax by 0.6% compared to larger increases by other parishes, we are very conscious of the rise in the cost of living. Also as a Parish Councillor Patricia Hopwood has kindly taken on the task of sorting out the payroll thus saving on accountancy fees. She has also kindly donated a laptop for our Clerk to use

Communication & Community Engagement

Our social media presence continues to go from strength to strength. Patricia has done an outstanding job managing our Facebook page, ensuring residents are kept informed about local events, storm and weather warnings, road closures, and wider parish news. This has become an essential communication tool for our community.

The Parish Informer also remains a key publication, and I would like to thank Patricia, Kevin Shovelton and Lindsey for their hard work in producing it. Their efforts ensure that residents stay up to date with local news, while also successfully securing advertisers to support its continuation.

Community Support & Infrastructure

Over the past year, the Council has been proud to support a number of important causes and initiatives. Donations have been made to Cornwall Air Ambulance, The Liskerrett Centre in Liskeard—enabling Trewidland School to participate in the annual Christmas Lights Parade—and to the Cornwall Heritage Trust in memory of former Councillor Loveday Carlyon.

We have also supported Trewidland Village Hall with funding for replacement doors. Recognising the scale of the ongoing redevelopment project, a sub-committee has recently been established to consider further support for what is undoubtedly a significant and worthwhile community endeavour.

Environment & Parish Improvements

Our Green Team—Cllrs Martin Cluer, Mark Featherston and Patricia—have made excellent progress this year. Fruit trees have been planted at Jubilee Park and Trewidland School, contributing to both the environment and community wellbeing. Patricia has also led an initiative providing children across the parishes with compost and seeds, encouraging them to grow their own plants. Further plans are underway to install new planters throughout the parish, which has now been actioned

Kevin has worked diligently to improve and maintain our network of footpaths, including organising a contractor to ensure their upkeep. He has also updated the Parish Emergency Plan, an important step in strengthening our community resilience.

Road Safety is still paramount and it is reassuring to see that Vision Zero are randomly visiting and checking vehicle speeds along the B3252. It is noticeable that as soon as motorists realise they are about, speeds drop. We are also waiting to see if we have been successful in our bid for speed warning flashing signs in the parish

Planning & Future Development

The Council has considered a number of planning applications over the past year. Of particular note is the potential development of the site for future housing in St Keyne. It was encouraging to see such strong community engagement at the recent Q&A meeting, and I hope that Robert Lacey's presentation helped residents better understand the planning process and what lies ahead

Closing Remarks

In closing, I would like to thank all councillors, volunteers, and members of the community who contribute so much to parish life. Despite the challenges we face, particularly with reduced council numbers, the dedication and community spirit within St Keyne and Trewidland remain as strong as ever.

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