

SECAP Meeting 25.06.2026

Discussion/Briefing on Proposed changes to A38 Trunk Road, Liskeard to Trerulefoot Section.

Presentation by Jack Mason, Road Safety Team, National Highways.

Background: This section of the A38 has a history of serious collisions including fatalities that place it at double the national average.

This section of road has a number of gaps (11 in total) in the central reservation to enable traffic to enter or exit on to the local road network that connects with it. These junctions are considered to be hazardous due to the speed of traffic on the A38 and at least in some cases restricted visibility. This is particularly the case for traffic intending to turn right on to the carriageway who need to make the turn in 2 manoeuvres, when traversing the central reservation. An example is the Menheniot junction.

The proposed solutions include several options some of which have been discounted due to the estimated cost by National Highways/Department of Transport. Estimated cost for full implementation is between £80,000,000-£150,000,000. These measures include some of the following: closing more of the gaps, partial closure of gaps where the risk is greatest, improved signage, grade separation (the most costly), junction upgrades. Due to cuts in the National Highways budget the pragmatic response is to come up with an 'Interim Solution'. Estimated cost, £6,000,000.

A considerable amount of research has been done on the impact this will have on traffic flow, average journey time and the knock on effect on the local road network. Particularly on the communities of Widegates, Hessenford and Looe.

A process of Public Consultation will follow, plus the intention to set up a Local Working Group. Local concerns about the proposed scheme were aired at this evenings meeting. These included the necessity to reconsider the possible underestimation of the impact of seasonal variations in traffic numbers and the risks this imposes on the local road network, also the need to factor in movement of slower agricultural vehicles.

SECAP AGM

Councillor Jane Pascoe was re-elected as Chair Person,

Vice Chair Person was also re-elected.

Sub-Groups to continue to meet including, Climate Change Network, Community Cohesion Network (no longer deemed necessary?).

Calendar of meetings for the remainder of the year are already set.

Presentation and Discussion of Changes to Planning Policy.

Cornwall Council are mandated to conform to changes in planning policy imposed by central government. The government is committed to increasing the amount of housing available across the country and has imposed targets on local councils.

Under the new policy some categories of planning can no longer go to Committee. This amounts to about 40% of applications that would previously gone to committee no longer required to do so. Instead this is delegated to the allocated Planning Officer. Parish Councils can still voice their support or objection but these views are unlikely to affect the final decision with regards, 'small sites where there are 9 or less proposed dwellings, or minor changes to single dwellings'.

Concerns were raised regarding larger proposed developments that are proposed and that little regard is made to local objections. Developers of some of the recent large scale housing estates in the county have not always kept to their promises to build in sufficient local community infrastructure therefore putting a strain on existing resources. This includes a commitment for 20% of new housing stock to be allocated as 'Affordable Housing'. The need for Parish Councils to produce a Neighbourhood Planning Statement was emphasised. However, some present voiced their lack of trust in this being taken into account especially as some Parish Councils spent considerable time and effort producing a Neighbourhood Plan which has now more or less been disregarded when it comes to planning applications.

Notes taken by Mark Featherston. Parish Councillor, St Keyne.