



To: All City, Town and Parish Councils in Cornwall

30 April 2026

Dear colleagues

Like you, we believe tidy neighbourhoods encourage pride in where we live and help protect vital assets such as pavements, roads and footpaths. That is why improving our public realm is a priority and we have ensured funding is allocated over the next three years to make a visible difference.

However, our approach to weed treatment, and the way it has been communicated, has raised strong concerns among your membership and within the wider community. Cabinet and senior council officers are sorry for the lack of engagement in advance with Town and Parish Councils and we appreciate your feedback.

We are committed to making visible improvements to Cornwall's streets and keeping footpaths and kerbsides safe, accessible and well maintained. But we have listened, and we recognise that this must be done in a way that earns the confidence of Members, Town and Parish Councils and the wider public.

While the proposed use of chemical treatments would have been very limited and tightly controlled, we recognise that further discussion is needed with you to fully explore the approach and its potential future use.

For the remainder of this year, with your help, we want to progress a programme of environmental improvements across the public realm through a series of interventions including enhancing the greenspace estate and targeted "hotspot" interventions, without the use of chemicals. This will include reviewing our mowing cycles, enhancing sites for nature on roads and footpaths as well as manual activities such as widening overgrown paths, cutting back edges, and removing weeds from kerb lines.

We will work closely with you to ensure these interventions are targeted effectively. We will engage with the Cornwall Association of Local Councils to seek advice on how best to involve Town and Parish Councils in finalising our approach, ensuring the additional funding delivers maximum benefit for local communities.

This decision relates to Cornwall Council's own planned weed treatment programme for this year, it does not prevent Town and Parish Councils from continuing with their own existing contracts for weed treatment arrangements. Our overall aim is to allow local democratic choice. We thank all of those who responded to our letter of 30 March 2026, however for those who have not responded there is no requirement to respond or return opt out forms.

In the long term, with your involvement, we will develop a wider approach for maintaining pride in our public realm, using the opportunity to explore greater involvement from communities themselves, perhaps through “love where you live” groups and working alongside existing community groups. The Council’s goal remains the same: to care for our public spaces and restore pride in our neighbourhoods, and we want to work with you and our residents to achieve that, for the benefit of one and all.

Yours sincerely



CLlr Leigh Frost
Leader of Cornwall Council



Phil Mason
Strategic Director Sustainable Growth & Place



CLlr Adam Paynter
Deputy Leader of Cornwall Council




CLlr Dan Rogerson
Cabinet Member for Transport



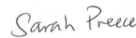
CLlr Thalia Marrington
Cabinet Member for Community Safety & Public Health



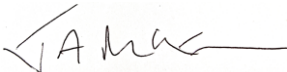
CLlr Tim Dwelly
Cabinet Member for Economic Regeneration & Investment



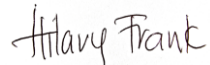
CLlr Loic Rich
Cabinet Member for Environment & Climate Change



CLlr Sarah Preece
Cabinet Member for Tourism, Localism & Planning



CLlr Jim McKenna
Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care & Health Partnership



CLlr Hilary Frank
Cabinet Member for Children, Families & Schools



CLlr Peter La Broy
Cabinet Member for Housing

