**Cornwall Councillor report – Mevagissey Parish – January 2020**

Happy New Year to the Parish Council.

I was pleased to see the double yellow lines on Bodrugan Hill have been completed.

There has been much consternation over proposed roadworks around scaffolding on Polkirt Hill. This was because the applicant hadn’t consulted with myself, the parish council or Cornwall Streetworks before moving ahead with signage etc.

I have today had an update from Cornwall Streetworks that says the following:

*‘We have two options which is basically down to them having to construct the scaffold and span over two properties, which makes sense and get the works done*

*First option- is that they close the road between 0930 to 1430 or 3pm and would need more than a week closure, potentially nearer two weeks closure.*

*Second option - is that they close the road from 0900 to 4pm and still only a week closure.*

*I suggested the last option and think we need to compromise and only have the road closed for one week and not potential two weeks.*

*At least the morning commuter would not be disrupted too much.*

*Let me know, and I will get the signage on site amended to show option two, which the scaffold company has agreed to this morning.’*

If you could let me know if the Parish Council agrees, I need to respond to Streetworks as soon as possible.

I have asked the Harbour about the background to the change in loading place for the fish lorry that happened a while ago, following Chris Blamey’s request at the November meeting, and if they can think of any way it could be either returned to its original place or another sensible nearer location. I await their reply.

On 9 January I had an email back from Helen Nicholson asking for more information from the Parish Council on what services they wanted to take over for a potential devolution deal, before they will hold another meeting to discuss further.

I think we could do with a bit of a spring clean in Wesley Court/Meadow Street.

I've been on at Ocean Housing about painting the buildings, cleaning the gutters that they didn't get to last time and doing some work on the sheds behind Meadow Street Flats.

As previously established the bit in the middle isn't theirs though, and is essentially a historic highway, and the only way we have been able to get it looking better in the past is through community action.

I will be down for the day on Sunday 26th January, weather allowing, to do some general weeding and tidying with volunteers.

I have raised concerns with Mevagissey Surgery about various issues, including the time taken to answer telephones with the surgery and via Steve Double MP. He is arranging a meeting with one of the directors of the surgery, and in the meantime they are aware of the issues and are taking steps to address them.

Over the Christmas period I was pleased to see Cornwall Council alter its guidance on the issuing of blue badges, following the motion at County Hall that I seconded on this this, to recognise that there are some exceptional cases that don’t fall within the normal criteria, a victory for common sense and I am pleased to see Cornwall Council has done the right thing and amended their guidance to allow compassion and discretion to be shown when certain cases don’t tick all their boxes.

I am now supporting a motion from Newquay Councillor Mark Formosa that asks

This council agrees to appoint a task and finish group to examine Cornwall Council’s current planning enforcement procedures and to make recommendations on how to make them more open and transparent to allow the public to be able to follow, understand, and participate in such proceedings from their opening to their conclusion.

The motion is being submitted because the enforcement of planning decisions and any attached conditions is vitally important for the integrity of the planning process and to avoid such decisions being undermined, yet, while the planning application process itself is fully open to public scrutiny, thereby deterring iniquitous conduct, the enforcement of decisions and conditions is a process which takes place behind a GDPR-inspired smokescreen which denies the public and most elected members any meaningful opportunity to follow it and/or to assess its fairness.