**Cornwall Councillor Annual report – Mevagissey Parish**

My seventh year as your Cornwall Councillor has been like no other before.

2020 was dominated by the COVID-19 pandemic.

In terms of the past year, it has been a particularly unique and difficult one with the COVID-19 pandemic that has changed nearly every aspect of how we live our lives.

Apart from anything else, as councillors we have had to adjust to working virtually, and while I might miss sitting in a meeting at my kitchen table waring my pj’s with a craft glass of wine just out of shot, it really is good to see you all, in person, this evening, and I hope from now on.

This virus, terrible though it is, has brought out the best in many people never more so than in Mevagissey where an amazing volunteer network was put together and the villages and rural area supported from before the first lockdown was declared.

There are many people deserving of recognition for this supreme effort, but I can’t help but mention Parish Councillor Alex Williams who really did pour her heart and soul into the community response. I was pleased to successfully nominate Cllr Williams for an award from the High Sherriff of Cornwall for her efforts. Thank you Alex.

Thank you also to the dozens of volunteers who have come together to form the Mevagissey Community Support Group, and I look forward to catching up in person at the event organised in June.

Turning to my activities as your councillor over the past year, while I spent a massive amount of time last year dealing with casework issues around COVID-19, helping individuals on a myriad of problems while ensuring the wider communities were kept up to date on the latest local and national announcements, I was also pleased to continue doing my best to serve the community on more regular Cornwall Council issues throughout the area.

I was able to successfully argue for the right result on several planning and licensing applications at virtual committees, and have welcomed the continued support of the parish council on this, and will continue to defend the parish on planning matters both locally and at appeal as needed.

I was pleased to get the B3273 running through to Mevagissey resurfaced (mostly) and look forward to seeing this work completed ahead of the summer season. I have also continued to push for more work to be done on resurfacing other problem roads in the parish and have been pleased to get other hotspots on the list for future attention.

And I was pleased to again work with the Parish Council and Cormac to successfully get the permitted rights of way accessibility pilot funding accessed and implemented around the parish, including a particularly nice section on the way up to Heligan Mill. Thanks in particular to the Parish Clerk, Phil Howson, for his work with this.

On top of everything else that was going on, last year also saw more challenges at Mevagissey Surgery. Without dwelling too much on this, it is good to see St Austell Healthcare in place as the new contract holder. There are still issues to iron out, and services are challenged as never before during the pandemic, but I have been impressed with SAHC’s willingness to communicate and meet regularly with both myself and the parish council, and I will continue to see them regularly going forward.

In not so good news I have continued to be frustrated at the planning and enforcement system in general and have certainly made my views known already to the new administration at Cornwall Council that we need more resources to this area to even start restoring public confidence in this crucial work.

I was also disappointed to see the bid put in by Cornwall Council for flood defences in Mevagissey rejected, but am reassured that this work will not have gone to waste, and that alternative routes for funding are being discussed. I am also pleased to have recently met with Heligan about an exciting flood prevention idea that involves…. Beavers!

There are numerous other areas where I continue to support residents, businesses and the parish council.

I look forward to getting back out into the community and doing some community gardening and litter pick/beach clean projects now the lockdown restrictions are easing.

I also want to pick back up and run with the devolution package for the parish council which is an exciting opportunity for Mevagissey.

I would like to congratulate the Parish Council on their excellent work and positive approach and attitude You are a pleasure to work with and I always look forward to coming to the monthly meetings.