**Mevagissey Parish Council Ward Member Report – February 2021**

I hope everyone is well as we continue through the lockdown.

The vaccine programme continues to go well, with St Austell Healthcare doing a particularly good job, being singled out for national recognition after recently vaccinating 1,000 people in one day at short notice. They have now given the first does to the first four groups of people in the priority list and are moving on to the next two priority groups – 60-69 and adults who are clinically vulnerable, and as one of those people, I am pleased to be having my vaccine tomorrow.

Cornwall Council are now sorting out eligibility for and paying the grant applications for the Additional Restrictions Grant, applications for which closed on 31 January.

The Government has confirmed May’s local elections will be going ahead, in a COVID-19 secure way, on Thursday May 6th. As previously stated, I will be standing for the new Mevagissey and St Austell Bay Division, which includes Mevagissey Parish

In terms of local work, I have continued to assist residents and businesses who contact me about all issues, including around COVID-19 restrictions and support and try to get answers as soon as possible for them.

In specific items:

I was pleased to speak in objection to the application on 15 Polkirt Hill, along with Cllr Gann and Mr Peter Bowker and see that the application was eventually turned down. I look forward to seeing something workable come forward on this site in this future that recognises both its position in the immediate vicinity and the impact any work carried out one the site would have to the surrounding community. Thanks to Cllr Gann and Mr Bowker for helping to make the case to the committee.

Regarding the proposed ‘improvements’ at Portmellon seafront, I had a couple of lengthy calls with Cornwall Council’s Head of Transport about this.

His position is essentially having seen the videos etc that they believe there is a risk to human life there and if someone dies (disregarding that no one ever has before), then Cornwall Council would be liable if there is an inquest and it comes out they knew about it but didn’t do anything.

The work (which was putting up railings) had actually been programmed for February, and would have gone ahead without any public consultation if we hadn’t flagged it.

His latest update to me was as follows:

*‘Following our meeting I went back to the team and instructed them to bring together all the options considered at the feasibility stage, this should also include a wall with a wave return profile, if practically possible in this location. They explained that this would require some further work and that the consultation would now need to take place in the early summer. The programme is being revised to reflect this. We still intend to do the work required in the autumn, so that measures are in place for winter 2021/22. In the interim, to ensure we take the appropriate action in response to the risk to highway users, the signing is being reviewed to make sure it is adequate.’*

I did subsequently send him photos of the recent storm damage at Portmellon and had in reply

*‘I think this illustrates very well the challenge we have in finding the right solution for this section and the importance of presenting all the potential options to the public before making a final decision.’*

When they do eventually come back with something, I think we need to make an argument that the bollards that are already there are sufficient safety measures, and that Cornwall Council have known about this for many years, which is why they put them there.

Also that whatever they do put there, unless there is something which is demonstrably safer, is just likely to be torn down and thrown back at the houses in the vicinity and therefore create more of a safety risk than what it is replacing or seeking to stop.

Regarding the weekend’s damage to the sea wall at Portmellon, Cormac tell me they visited the site on Monday and hope to start work next week if the tides allow. This will be to repair the area causing most concern, which will be filled with fibre reinforced concrete and faced with salvaged masonry.

The Cornwall Council application to DEFRA for a flood relief scheme for the village was submitted at the end of January, along with a supporting letter from myself and the Parish Council, thank you for you support and I look forward to hearing the outcome.

Finally, there will be works to install EV charging at Willow Car Park which will commence on 22 Feb. There will be traffic lights near Ava/bus stop from Western Power to bring a huge cable across the road for a new bespoke power supply that will be able to be expanded when EV takes off. There are 4 22kw chargers via Podpoint, wholly paid for by the business, and should provide an excellent contribution to the push to travel more sustainably when considering people visiting Mevagissey. Well done to the team at Willow carpark, who continue to lead on sustainable business solutions in the Parish.

This continues to be a challenging time, thank you to everyone who continues to help with the Covid relief effort and please continue to Stay Home, Protect the NHS and Save Lives.