**Cornwall Councillor report – Mevagissey Parish Council - June 2021**

Good evening everyone and I hope you have been able to enjoy some of the lovely weather that we have been having over the past few days.

It’s been a busy time for me, getting used to the ‘new’ parts of my division and meeting with various people and organisations, along with taking part in the first formal meetings of the new Cornwall Council.

In Mevagissey Parish over the past month I have had some really good progress in resolving some issues that have been ongoing for quite some time in Mevagissey.

Working with the new administration and Cabinet Member for Transport Philip Desmonde I have finally been able to secure some allocated parking for people using the surgery in Mevagissey. Why this was not possible when I asked his predecessors in this role over the past seven years, I can only guess, but Cornwall Council has now agreed to move forward with marking out three designated parking spaces in Kiers Carpark for people who use the surgery. These won’t be free for surgery users at present but it is something the surgery could come into an agreement with the council for in the future, so let’s see how it goes.

In other good news, after chasing for a year, Cornwall Council has finally agreed to take action to repair the wall above the old East Wharf toilets over the harbour. This was one of those tricky situations where the land itself appeared to be a ‘no-man’s land’ with no one appearing to own it. My own preference would be to see Cornwall Council, as the local authority, to take action to repair it and then worry about finding out who the landowner is and billing them accordingly afterwards. This would stop further deterioration of the wall and cliff face, avoid damage to the harbour and neighbouring properties and prevent what could be a real health and safety risk to people walking below. Cornwall Council have finally come around to my way of thinking and I hope the work to fix the wall will start soon.

In similar issues to this I continue to work with the Parish Council and Cormac to find a way to reopen the women’s and disabled toilets on Valley Road, which were closed after the bank behind it suffered a partial collapse. While there is a bigger piece of work to be done here to properly fix the bank, in the meantime I am pressing for an interim fix to be applied to allow the toilets to reopen as soon as possible. Speaking to local businesses I think we all get the feeling it is going to be another bumper summer season this year, and we need all the toilet provision in our village that we can get!

Donald Martin from Cornwall Council has now come back regarding the toilets and said:

‘…unfortunately after further discussion with the engineering team I cannot recommend that we undertake the works to batter the retaining slope, this will need to be completed by the landowner. I’m drafting a letter to the owner highlighting our concerns and offering detail of the works required, I’ve also approached building control to see if we can gather support from them.

As these will likely take some time to arrange and deliver, there is a further option which I’m currently costing with CORMAC, essentially to install safety/catch fencing to shield users from any potential failure of the slope. This may be the quickest option to reopen, associated with ordering and programming timescales.’

I have asked for the timescales etc to be clarified as soon as possible in order to get the toilets open.

Regarding the community recycling bins, I have spoken with the new Cabinet Member Carol Mould and senior officers. Peter Marsh, who is the Service Director for Environment and Climate Change, has now come up with a proposal that his team will engage with the Parish Clerk to identify how the current issues being experienced could be addressed by way of a pilot.

At this point the new administration’s policy in regard to recycling banks has not been formally established, so he wants to work with Mevagissey Parish Council with a view to establishing if this is a service that can be run with the minimal amount of abuse and at a rate that represents value for money for the public purse. The pilot could be used to assist the administration in the adoption of a new policy if appropriate.

He proposes that a trial should start on the 1st August for four months during which time Cornwall Council will meet 50% of the cost of the service and will deal with any fly tipping that occurs around the banks. Furthermore, the team will investigate signage and the installation of CCTV if appropriate at Cornwall Council’s cost.

Peter would be happy to attend a parish meeting before the trial starts if that would be helpful.

In terms of Cornwall Council officers attending meetings, the Parish Council will be pleased to note that Gavin Smith the area planning manager will be meeting with the parish council in closed session for an hour tomorrow before your meeting.

I have also asked Helen Nicholson to look at setting up a meeting with officers on the devolution plans for Mevagissey Parish.

At County Hall I was honoured to be elected as Chair of the Children and Families Overview and Scrutiny Committee. This is one of the main committees that holds Cornwall Council to account in a particular area, and I am looking forward to working with the committee members to ensure our children and young people are best served in the future.

I have cautiously resumed my volunteer community action group, covid safe and outside in groups below the numbers needed under current regulations, and have the first session scheduled for Portmellon on 27 June.

Finally, my Community Chest fund will shortly be open for bids and I would encourage anyone who is interested in applying to get in touch with me so I can consider bids.