**Cornwall Councillor Report – Mevagissey Parish – December 2021**

I hope you are all keeping safe and well as we move into December, particularly with the issues around the new Covid-19 variant.

It has been a busy month.

In follow-ups from last month:

We had the tree planting event booked for 4 December but sadly an unavoidable clash meant this has had to be postponed until early next year. I have also worked with Cormac to get bulbs for the planting event, and thanks also to Cormac for providing sandbags to help with some of the unconventional village Christmas trees.

I contacted Mark Gardner of Ocean and Gilbert and Goode as requested and he is happy to meet with the Parish Council. At the time of writing, this is scheduled for 21 December, but may need to be postponed due to lack of availability and the new covid regulations.

Thanks also to Ocean Housing for sorting the bench at the Kiln Close bus stop out following my recent request after a resident got in touch.

I met with the Parish Council and Rachael Tatlow of Cormac and walked down Vicarage Hill and along Church Lane.

Cormac have assured me that:

Their roadworks to fix the collapsed drain near The Retreat, which were postponed for reasons beyond their control will be carried out in the new year.

Once these works are done, it will allow them to see if they have a knock-on affect lower down the hill (it should) and if not, then programme further works accordingly.

They are also going to clear several blocked drains higher up Vicarage Hill

And cut back overgrowth to uncover other drainage features which should help with water run-off further up the hill.

Thanks to Biffa and Mark Groom for attending when asked and clearing leaves from Church Lane, as happened when I asked him to.

Residents are reminded that if they think there is a flood or storm coming and you need leaves clearing, they can contact Biffa direct and ask them to send someone out to clear them. They can do this via the council website.

I reported a couple of fallen trees across the SWCP to Cormac, who attended and removed them shortly afterwards.

I met with the Parish Council and Community Link Officer to discuss the devolution requests of the parish council further. Caitlin provided some information and has gone away with a further list that will hopefully take us forward in this process.

I am also meeting with Carol Mould, Cabinet Member responsible for Communities, early next year, in Mevagissey, to show her some of the assets the Parish Council want and try to make some more progress on this important issue.

I met with Clr Facey, Jeremy Roberts, and officers from Cornwall Council and the Environment Agency to discuss flooding issues and potential solutions. I will be having Martyn Alvey, Cabinet Member for the Environment at Cornwall Council, and the new flood risk manager for Cornwall Council (once they are in post) down to Mevagissey in February to discuss this further.

I have contacted new St Austell Sector Inspector Ian Jolliff and he has agreed to visit the Parish Council at a later date in the New Year. At the time of writing this report, I had also arranged to visit him my self at the police station on Tuesday.

I visited the Hollies site on Church Lane to talk to the owners about their plans for the ongoing construction and demolition work.

The big crane will be coming back, necessitating another road closure at some point in the near future.

However their plan for the long term as far as the construction works go is to stabilise the platform we were stood on today and put a crane on that instead, to avoid any future road closures, which will be much better.

They have also said they will be suspending building work in August to avoid deliveries getting snarled up in the village.

Up at County Hall I was pleased to second the Motion for Cornwall Council to declare an ecological emergency.

As a keen environmentalist I am always looking for opportunities to ensure Cornwall Council is on the top of its game in the fight for our environment.

The statistics around this motion are scary- we are seeing species being lost across Cornwall at an alarming rate, and this motion formalises the council’s response, joining us with partners for a combined approach to addressing the decline of our natural environment, and working with our existing resources to take action accordingly.

With the recent COP26 in Glasgow, it has never been more appropriate to declare an ecological emergency, and today’s motion does just that, while highlighting the existing work that is taking place and the need to do more.

It was also good to attend the People’s Climate Change Conference in St Austell and see a couple of Mevagissey people there. It’s a shame there weren’t more members of the public overall in attendance.

Ditto the virtual community network panel meeting last week!

Finally it was brilliant to see the Christmas lights back up and switched on, along with the Christmas trees. I was pleased to donate money from my Community Chest to help with their all year round fund-raising efforts.

2021 has certainly been another interesting and busy year. Thank you to all of you for your support and may I take the opportunity wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year for 2022.