

Annex 9 Mevagissey Parish Open space descriptions

Mevagissey is a typical Cornish fishing village at the end of a steep valley evolving from a beach fishing community, houses built on every available space in what is now the conservation area leaving little or no open space. Development in more recent years has spread outwards from the village using the topography of the area to achieve the most cost effective results again leaving very little open space within the built up area.

RECREATION GROUNDS.

Playing Field

Situated adjacent to the MAC home of Mevagissey Football Club, but could be used for all sports. Cycle trail and footpath to the Lost Gardens of Heligan starts at the entrance and runs alongside the playing field, continues up and along the valley to Heligan.

The playing field is situated on the only area flat enough to provide a sports field, it is partially manmade originally being the village refuse dump and extended through the generosity of the local squire and the work of the Playing Fields Committee. Full ownership was ceded to the local authority in the 1950's. Certain covenants are still in force regarding the use of certain areas. Of vital importance to the village as it is the only sports ground.

Recreation Ground/Children's Playground

Adjacent to the playing field open space with play equipment, the Mevagissey Stream runs along the north-east edge of the ground. Owned and maintained by Cornwall Council. The Mevagissey Fire Station is located at the southern entrance. Provides facilities for younger children and open air events it is the only large public open space near the village centre capable of providing these facilities.

Pentillie Green

A large area of open space adjacent to the Pentillie housing estate, incorporates some childrens play equipment inside a fenced area. The coastal footpath runs along the eastern edge. Owned and maintained by Cornwall Council

Acquired for local authority housing after WW2, this area was left as open space after building was complete. Highly sensitive as a cash strapped local authority could potentially raise a considerable sum by selling or developing. Provides a buffer between housing and cliff edge

Mevagissey Primary School

The grounds currently used as school playing areas although not open to the public could be used jointly by school children and the public. The main playing area occupies a prominent position on the west side of the road and requires safeguarding from speculative development.

Lamorrick

A small children's play area in a corner of the estate, equipment includes a swing, slides and climbing frame, picnic area and small children's items. Owned and maintained by Cornwall Council. Loss of this small area would be detrimental to the area being some distance from the main recreation ground.

Land between 33 & 37 Pentille Way

This small area of open space was left following the building of Pentille Estate after WW2. It was sold to a developer by Cornwall Council and an application for two dwellings was refused on appeal in 2015. In dismissing the appeal the inspector stated. "In considering the overall impact of the scheme, the benefits of additional housing and the economic advancements they would bring do not overcome or outweigh the harm to the character and appearance of the area and the adverse impact upon neighbouring occupiers living conditions that I have identified. As a consequence, the proposal would be at odds with the environmental and social roles to sustainable development. Moreover, the totality of this harm would significantly and demonstrably outweigh the benefits of the scheme, when assessed against the policies of the Framework taken as a whole. The proposal would therefore fail to contribute to the achievement of sustainable development."

Triangle Valley Road

This small area of land directly opposite the recreation ground has been an open space following the construction of valley road in the 1920's, it is owned and maintained by Cornwall Council. While capable of being developed it is; however, more important that it retained as an open space complementing the recreation ground and enhancing the entrance to the village.

Rope Walk

This is a narrow pathway between Cliff Street and The Battery and was used as a rope making area by local fishermen. The old machinery was in situ up until the 1960's. Although in private ownership its historical relevance is important to the community and should be preserved for posterity.

Hitler's Walk

Large open area on Polkirt Hill with an exceptional view over the harbour and Mevagissey Bay, has no play equipment but a number of seats positioned to take in the best of the views. The coastal footpath enters from the steps up from the outer harbour and continues through and on to Polkirt Hill. The area was donated to the village by Mr Howard Dunn in the 1930's though a local councillor nicknamed Hitler, the area henceforth referred to by locals as Hitler's Walk .Fortunately protected by covenant but priceless as development site. Value to the area both for locals and visitors is incalculable and should be maintained as open space at all costs.

South West Coastal Footpath

The coastal footpath enters the parish at its northern boundary via Pentewan Hill and proceeds along the cliff edge to Pentillie field from where it enters the village via the Battery and in front of the houses overlooking the harbour, down by the hoss and along the inner harbour to the outer harbour and the platt leaving by the steps up to and through Hitler's Walk then along Polkirt, down Portmellon Hill following the road through Portmellon to Bodrugan Hill leaving by Chapel Point Lane to Chapel Point from where it leaves the parish boundary to proceed along the cliff to Gorran Haven.

The Paddock Adjacent to Steep House Portmellon

This area of land is the last undeveloped land between Mevagissey and Portmellon breaking up the continuous building from Polkirt. The land is in private ownership and has been the subject of several planning applications. The government inspector's report in 1998 in dismissing an appeal states:

"The land next to Steep House, Portmellon, is in the A.O.N.B outside the limits of this small settlement. The site occupies part of a prominent headland on the north side of Portmellon cove, and is visible from the surrounding countryside, and the sea approaches. It acts to strengthen the open space between Portmellon and Mevagissey and provides an important setting for the listed terrace to its immediate south.

It also has significant historical importance as in 1849 an outbreak of cholera in the village quickly spread and was responsible for over 100 deaths. The paddock of Steep House, Portmellon was commandeered and used to isolate and quarantine people in a tented encampment. There is still the stone building near the paddock which was used as a hospital and treatment centre."

References

1. Cornwall Council Mevagissey Open Space Study September 2016
2. Mevagissey Open Spaces Assessment September 2016 Map1 Version 3