**Cornwall Councillor report – Mevagissey division – July 2017**

So far this month it has been pretty busy with work continuing on a variety long running issues as well as making sure that Mevagissey Division gets prioritised for regular council services such as verge cutting, which is always an issue as we head into the summer.

I was pleased to ensure Cormac cut the verges heading up from Pentewan Valley and down Valley Road, as well as all of the bits they are responsible around the village ahead of Feast Week at the end of June/beginning of July.

I also persuaded the footpath team to prioritise Mevagissey division above the whole of this part of Cornwall for cutting growth back on the coast path, which was due to start heading east from Caerhayes on 12th July. If there are any bits that they miss, then get in touch with me and I will ask them to go back and finish the job. I understand the path in this parish has already been done.

In related news the lower steps down to Polstreath were vandalised. They have now been made safe and accessible and remaining repairs have been prioritised.

We also had the Community Action Group out clearing the area on Valley Road ahead of Feast Week and I would like to thank all the volunteers who came out to make this piece of land look lovely in time for the festivities to commence.

In July I met with local Sector Inspector Ed Gard at St Austell Police Station to discuss the operational challenges faced by our local police. I have been concerned that a decision was made, by the Exeter-based Chief Constable, to pull several Police Community Support Officers, including the one that covers the Mevagissey division as a whole away from their normal beat for additional training, during the summer months when due to seasonal increases in population we really need a uniformed community police presence.

Inspector Gard reassured me that he has a core of six PCSOs based in his sector who are able to quickly respond to issues that come up. I was also pleased to hear Inspector Gard confirm that his neighbourhood beat officers are back up to full capacity with the anticipation of additional recruitment and transferees later in the year.

Nonetheless I look forward to welcoming back PCSO Yasmin Barratt when she returns from her training in September, as she was doing a great job as a visible presence in our communities before she left.

I have written to Chief Constable Shaun Sawyer about rural policing cover following this meeting, and await his reply.

I was pleased to nominate our road sweeper Mark Groom for national employee of the month via the Biffa CEO and was pleased to see him get the award. Mark does an incredible job and I was pleased to see him recognised like this.

As I think you will be aware following contact from a number of residents and Parish Councillors I raised reports that construction traffic was delivering to and from the site north of Moonfleet outside of the times agreed in the Construction Traffic Management Plan that was put in place when this application originally got through.

Cornwall Council have now confirmed they have set this up as a formal enforcement case - the ref is EN17/00972.

However I have had a very frustrating conversation with an Enforcement Office last week (after chasing them since Monday) about what actions she/her department should be taking here.

She has since sent me the below email, which I have included for your information:

*'I have visited the site at 845 and 835 on two separate occasion and have stayed there for approximately 20 minutes of both occasions I have not personally witnessed any breaches, on my first visit I spoke with the site foreman who has informed me that he has turned lorries away who are trying to deliver items outside of the permitted times, he tells them to go and wait in the layby.*

*The wording of the CMTP is that, ‘No deliveries will be made between 8.30 - 9 and 1500 – 1530.’ As such the evidence/information that is needed to show that this condition is being breached is time and date stamped images of the items on the lorries being ‘delivered’ ie uploaded to the site.'*

I took issue with the conversation that led to this response for a number of reasons.

Firstly the officer told me that the lorry drivers weren't the responsibility of the construction site personnel, but that of the companies that employ them and therefore can't be part of the CTMP.

This is absolute nonsense as the developers are the ones paying for the service and should take responsibility for telling their contractors when they can arrive.

Secondly I was told that the wording of the CTMP is such that it only prohibits the loading and unloading (the physical taking on and off) of material on the site and not actually coming to and from the site, which as far as I am concerned was the reason for putting it in place in the first place. So, for instance a lorry could turn up at 0800, unload by 0830 and then drive off between 0830 and 0900 and not be in breach of the CTMP because it wasn't actually 'unloading' during the not-permitted period.

Again I have stressed to the officer that this is simply not on and that Cornwall Council seriously need to tighten up what they allow into CTMPs in the future to stop this sort of thing from happening again.

I have asked for more information on this issue and how I can actually go about changing this as a councillor across the whole system, which they are going to provide me once they close the case, which currently remains open.

I would encourage anyone who can get photographic evidence of the type referenced above to send it to me and I will then send it on.

I have been to the site three times now during when the CTMP should be enforced and haven't witnessed any breaches although when I met with Garth, as I went to leave a lorry pulled out and left the site at 0850 (which I have photographed).

Finally I had a meeting with council officers and the cabinet member responsible for waste and recycling and will be meeting with them again in August, along with Cllr Nathan, in order to progress her ideas for piloting recycling schemes in Mevagissey.