**Cornwall Councillor report – Mevagissey Parish - Feb 2018**

Here are some of the things I have been up to in Mevagissey Parish since the last meeting:

I completed my submission to Cornwall Council on the proposed changes to the Division Boundaries and submitted it. Cornwall Council has gone with its original plans but the Boundaries Commission has the final say and I want to thank Mevagissey, Pentewan Valley and St Goran Parish Parish Councils for making their own representations to the Boundary Commission along the lines of my proposals. We will see the outcome later this year.

I have been in correspondence with Highways and got confirmation that resurfacing works I requested for Church Street/Church Lane and Higherwell/Lowerwell Park are scheduled for the 2018/19 financial year. The full list which may include more local works should be published in March.

I am awaiting a reply from Cornwall Council on the concerns raised about the suitability for the Construction Traffic Management Plan for the Hollies/Tall Trees site.

Cornwall Council have said they will be looking at redoing the lines in Kiers Carpark in the 18/19 financial year.

Cornwall Highways have said they will be redoing the lines on the virtual pavement on Valley Road in the 18/19 financial year.

I raised Cllr Shepherd’s concerns about CNP’s with Paul Masters, the Corporate Director at Cornwall Council responsible for communities and because of this, CNPs.

His response as follows:

*‘Thank you for your email regarding the comments made by Councillor Garth Shephard on Community Network Panels, which I have discussed with Simon Mould, Head of Service for Community Safety and Localism.  I very much appreciate you raising your concerns with us, as you know this is a clear priority for the Council and it is important we understand where improvements can be made.*

*My comments on Councillor Shephard’s points:*

*(i) “Network panels exist as a forum for airing local issues and for effecting change. Network panels cannot exist in isolation.  Their collective input can****and should****make an impact on issues being debated in Council…*

*Councillor Shephard is absolutely correct.  The role of the Panels “includes discussing current issues affecting the CNA and agreeing ways to progress these by working together in partnership; agreeing local priorities, with a view to influencing Cornwall-wide strategies, local service delivery mechanisms and local projects; and generally working together to promote the social, economic and environmental wellbeing of their communities; build relationships between local partners; and strengthen community cohesion.”*

*(ii) “So, I find it unacceptable that issues which are generic to Cornwall have no route for influence other than formal ones.”*

*In terms of the advice given by the CLO on this point, it is correct that one route open to Members is to raise issues on behalf of their Panels at full Council.  They can do this by submitting a motion or asking a question, subject to following the rules about this in the Council’s Constitution.  I would suggest that this is an effective way of raising issues in appropriate circumstances and, potentially, a very influential one, given that it could lead to an agreed position from full Council on the issue in question.*

*However, there are a number of other formal or informal “routes for influence” open to Panels and Members, for example:*

*·       The Panel writing a formal letter of representation e.g. to Cornwall Council, a partner agency, or the MP (with the letter drafted on the Panel’s behalf by the CLO and signed by the Chair).  Or, as St Austell & Mevagissey CNP has now done in this case and as suggested by Councillor Shephard, writing to the other Panels seeking their support.*

*·       Panels holding joint meetings.  The Cabinet report on strengthening Panels confirms that they can hold joint meetings and invite representatives from neighbouring CNAs to attend their meetings.  St Austell & Mevagissey CNP has itself held joint meetings with neighbouring Panels.  In her response, it seems the CLO is correctly suggesting that it is not envisaged that all 19 Panels would come together in this way; however, the Cabinet report includes a proposal for Panels to establish cross-CNA task & finish groups to deal with specific projects, and these could potentially cover Cornwall-wide issues and include representatives from all Panels.*

*·       Panels raising issues with their Cornwall Leadership Team (CLT) Representative.*

*·       Members raising issues informally or formally with the relevant Portfolio Holder (formal routes would include writing a letter or asking a question at an Overview & Scrutiny Committee).*

*·       Members/town & parish councillors on one Panel raising issues informally with colleagues on other Panels.*

*As part of the work on strengthening Panels, the Council will seek to raise awareness of these routes with Panels.  The Cabinet has also agreed that, when the Council reviews progress on the strengthening agenda, consideration may be given to potential additional ways for Panels to escalate and highlight issues.  These are set out in the Cabinet report; one example given is potential mechanisms for Panels to request that issues be referred to Overview and Scrutiny Committee and vice-versa.*

*I hope this information helps but if you have any other queries, please let me know.’*

I contacted Sector Inspector Ed Gard about several incidents where tyres have been slashed in the village. His reply as follows:

*‘I have reviewed the crimes for Mevagissey and note we had two similar crimes where damage was caused to tyres although it seems that one of the victims has been a victim several times. The crimes we have recorded have been filed at this time although as there has been a spate I will instruct directed patrols in the areas concerned. I would also urge people to report incidents at the time as it does help build up a picture of crime and help inform me as to how to direct the limited resources I have.’*

I have had Cormac out and they have put the flower beds off Cliff Street/Battery Terrace back onto their maintenance programme after they had dropped off some reason. They have attended and cleared and tidied the area.

I continue to work (slowly) with Cornwall Council’s legal team to tidy up and bring into community use the old storage hut at Trewinney Cemetary – I met with Cormac about this in January.