I hope you all at least survived the incredibly busy summer season.

In August I was pleased to welcome Cornwall Council’s Leader, Cllr Linda Taylor to Mevagissey, to meet with local businesses and residents, as well as having a meeting with the Chair of the Parish Council. It is good that she is able to come out and see first-hand both the positive work being done in our area as well as some of the challenges we face.

We discussed my ongoing work to bring a Tri-Service Office to Mevagissey, which Linda supports, and also met with Paul Pearce at the Community Fire Station to discuss local matters for our brilliant village firefighters and what Cornwall Council can do to support them, as well as take a look at their new fire engine.

I have continued to report issues of ASB in our coastal waters to the appropriate bodies when the situation merits it. You may be interested in responding to the Government’s consultation on better regulating the use of personal watercraft aka jet skis, which went live earlier in September:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/government-to-clamp-down-on-dangerous-use-of-jet-skis-with-new-legislation>

The reserved parking bays for users of the surgery in Kiers Carpark that I requested following the elections in May have now been in for a few weeks and feedback from the surgery earlier this month is that they seem to be working well and are being used by people who need them, with minimal inappropriate usage reported. Hopefully this will help people who need to visit the surgery get a parking spot. I am pleased that the new administration at county hall listened and took action after their predecessors turned my request down twice over the previous years for no good reason.

Last Tuesday I met with Parish Councillors and a tree officer from Cornwall Council regarding the trees at Ava. The tree officer has agreed to provide a report for the parish council for Friday’s meeting.

Last Friday I met with Steve Double MP, the Environment Agency, Matt Facey and Jeremy Roberts about flooding issues in Mevagissey and what we can do about it.

It is clear that there are long term solutions that will need a multi agency approach to work, and I will be working with them to get this done.

I look forward to hearing back from the EA with their plans and will then work with them, Cornwall Council and the local community towards realising them in the coming years.

I have scheduled the first organised beach cleans that we have been able to hold in over 18 months, in conjunction with Three Bays Wildlife Group as part of the Marine Conservation Society’s Great British Beach Clean Week. One has already taken place at, Mevagissey Harbour, on 18 September. Thank you to She Sells, the Mevagissey-Fowey Ferry and Fat Face for either sponsoring the harbour clean, or helping with the litter survey, and of course to the Harbour Trust for permission, as well as the Harbour Staff and regular volunteers who do work in the harbour to keep it clean all year round.

Meanwhile up at County Hall I was pleased to lead a campaign to get them to remove a fee for people purchasing affordable homes following action from councillors:

From 1 February 2021, Cornwall Council has been charging a non-refundable Section 106 eligibility assessment fee of £150 to people who are successful in purchasing an affordable/discount market scheme home in Cornwall.

Cornwall Council said this fee recovers the cost of assessing whether someone is eligible to buy an affordable home and that the fee will need to be paid by the person buying the property before they authorise the purchase.

I gathered cross party support for my motion which would have called for Cornwall Council to scrap the fee at September’s Full Council meeting.

However last week, Cornwall Council confirmed it will be scrapping the charge, thus avoiding the cost of the motion coming before the council, and potentially then being looked at for months ahead of any decisions being made.

I am pleased to see Cornwall Council listen to the concerns raised by me and the cross-party group of councillors who raised this issue and demanded change.

As a relatively recent purchaser of an affordable home in 2019, which my family and I saved for years to afford, I was astounded that Cornwall Council, at the beginning of this year, in the middle of a pandemic and housing crisis, introduced a charge for people buying such a property.

People buying an affordable home are already needing help to get on the housing ladder. It takes years to save a deposit and when you purchase a house you already have to pay thousands of pounds for solicitors fees, so it was simply abhorrent to me that Cornwall Council was contributing to this cost by charging them even more.

However I am pleased that Cornwall Council has seen sense and once this has been highlighted to the new administration, they have immediately taken steps to remove it, while ensuring that the overall service offered to the taxpayer is still a good one, and avoiding the costly process of the motion going before Full Council and proceeding through the council for months on end before a decision is made.

I am pleased to have given funds from my community chest to support organisations in the parish, including Mevagissey Guides, Mevagissey Museum, the Christmas Lights, and a #2minutebeachclean board for Portmellon via Three Bays Wildlife Group.

As ever, please do get in touch if I can be of assistance via the normal routes, 07885 277670 or via cllr.james.mustoe@cornwall.gov.uk