**Cornwall Councillor Report – Mevagissey Parish - September 2022**

I couldn’t start my report with commenting on the sad passing of our Queen, Elizabeth II, on September 8th.

As Cornwall Councillor I was honoured to sign the County Book of Condolence at County Hall, and attend the County Accession Ceremony and Remembrance Service, both held at Truro Cathedral, on behalf of the St Austell and Mevagissey Division.

In Mevagissey Parish I also signed the Book of Condolence in St Peter’s Church and joined the Parish Council for their Accession Ceremony on 11 September.

Thank you for service Ma’am and long live the King!

It was also an honour as ever to be present at the short service at 11am on 3 September for the raising of the Red Ensign on Mevagissey Harbour, to mark Merchant Navy Day.

It was also great to catch up with our excellent local Coastguard, harbour staff, and former Harbour Master (and my Father in Law!) Captain Bowles.

What has dominated my work in Mevagissey Parish over the past few weeks is the issues around the roadworks on Polkirt Hill.

Allow me to reiterate that while Cornwall Council has said they believe the method of application for these works was correct, I disagree with this, and even if it was, I believe the system that has allowed it to happen is flawed.

Regardless of how the road closure was applied for the, the issue then became about doing all we could to ensure further community disruption was minimised, and with the weight of correspondence from myself and the parish clerk in particular to Cornwall Streetworks and elsewhere over the past couple of weeks, I hope they got the message about how important this is to us and how vital keeping this road open wherever possible is for Mevagissey and Portmellon.

This is the start what could be a protracted process so it is something I will be regularly following up on whenever needed.

In other news, at the time of writing Cormac still seem to be struggling to satisfactorily complete the double yellow lines on Cliff Street. They have done the lower ones now but apparently have not done the higher ones.

One thing they did get right was the resurfacing of Higher Lavorrick, which was done correctly and on schedule earlier in the month.

They also attended and cleared and cleaned the path from Vicarage Hill to the School at my request following a report from Cllr Chamberlyn.

I can also confirm that the stretch of council maintained road at Trevarth, and the lower part of the road from Portmellon Cove to Portmellon Park are now on the resurfacing list for the next financial year.

A provisional list of sites for e-bike bays unveiled at the Community Network Panel meeting last week and sadly Mevagissey Parish was not included, as the operator has not been able to have them that far away from St Austell, despite the obvious benefits of having them in the area. However I have spoken to Cornwall Council in the past week and they agree with me that a second hub encompassing Mevagissey, Pentewan and Heligan would make sense for the second phase of their rollout.

Every three years Cornwall Council consults on the Public Space Protection Order (PSPO) which is in place to balance the needs of dog owners and others who enjoy the 43 beaches across Cornwall that are subject to seasonal restrictions on dogs.

The consultation on how the PSPOs should look from April 2023 runs from 5 September for 12 weeks.

The current PSPO, which runs until April 2023, was put in place after extensive consultation in 2019.

Currently dogs are not allowed on specific beaches, including Portmellon Beach, between 10am and 6pm from 1 July to 31 August.

As the ban on Portmellon Beach was put in initially at the Parish Council’s request, you may wish to respond to this consultation, as you did in 2019.

More details below:

<https://letstalk.cornwall.gov.uk/dogsonbeaches2022>

Meanwhile up at County Hall I led a cross party motion to get Cornwall Council to back the National Farmers Union’s petition to the Government to ban the sale and use of sky lanterns.

I originally led the campaign for Cornwall Council to ban the use of these things from council land and from events with licenses back in 2015, and was pleased to see the council unanimously vote for my motion last week, which also included approval for an online safety awareness campaign from the council to highlight how dangerous these things are.