**Cornwall Councillor Report – Mevagissey Parish – January 2022**

Happy New Year to you all!

I hope you all managed to get a bit of time off over Christmas and I did manage to take a week off.

In terms of general updates since we I last saw you all:

In response to the reply we had from Ocean Housing following the 21 December meeting, I wrote back to them asking:

*‘Can you tell me please, given the reasons you are selling it, how all of the other Ocean properties in Meadow Street and Wesley Court measure up with the same energy efficiency ratings etc, as I have seen several in this area, with tenants in them, that are of the same or worse standard.*

*Is there any long term plan for this area in terms of actually maintaining the invaluable social housing provision in the centre of Mevagissey. Perhaps by doing similar to what Ocean has done in St Blazey and demolishing these old and not fit for purpose properties and rebuilding ones that are fit for purpose.*

*Otherwise, if Ocean is selling these properties, which are all in poor condition realistically, off piecemeal as they become available, all we are going to be left with is a lack of social housing in the centre of Mevagissey, where we need it.*

*Also, can you just also confirm, just to be clear, that this proposal will essentially see Ocean look to remove a social housing unit from Mevagissey, without replacing it. Essentially what you have said is that any funds from selling this property will go to improve your stock in Cornwall, but realistically this is not going to be in Mevagissey.’*

They replied to me stating:

*‘I do, of course, understand your concerns. In an ideal world we would not need to sell properties but we do face some very real challenges over the coming years. In common with many landlords, we are selling a small number of properties, as well as very small plots of land which as a developer of scale are not financially viable for us. We are using the proceeds to invest in new affordable homes for Cornwall, and improving existing ones for the benefit of our tenants.*

*We look at each empty home based on its particular circumstances so it doesn’t follow we will sell others that might become empty in Mevagissey. The EPC rating is only one factor we consider but on that point, homes that on the surface appear similar can have different ratings.*

*We may not replace the lost unit in Mevagissey but we will invest in the remaining homes here in future. For example we will be painting the Meadow Street homes in 2022-23.*

*To put the situation into context, in the last 12 months we have sold 16 homes. In 2021-22 we will build 75 new affordable homes, with 131 planned for the following year . By 2050 we will be investing £40m in our portfolio, just on energy efficiency improvements, with £13m invested by 2030.*

*We don’t have plans currently for large scale regeneration in Mevagissey and without government funding it is highly unlikely this would be feasible in future years.’*

While the commitment to the various maintenance issues that I have been pushing on for a while that were outlined in the first reply is a good thing, I do not remain convinced about the energy efficiency of other properties in this site, having visited a number of them myself and seen various problems.

I will also be enquiring about the possibility of government funding to help in a larger regeneration project in Mevagissey in the future.

Cllr Leiser asked about an update on a Cornwall-wide idling project and about the air quality work that was carried out in Mevagissey last year.

Environmental Protection are updating the anti-idling leaflet, comments have been provided by transport and we are just waiting for final internal partner comments, this leaflet will explain why idling is bad for environment, have some FAQ’s/myth busting facts and guide readers to alternative travel modes. This leaflet would then have to go to design team and have a QR code.

Environmental Protection are also giving training to the Civil Enforcement Officers regards air quality and idling, a ‘Park and Stride’ trial is going to be run in Launceston (two schools have been selected and free parking permits provided so parents can park for 30mins and walk their children to school) also enforcement officers can educate drivers regards poor parking and idling outside schools. Enforcement Officers will then be able to advise drivers throughout Cornwall regards idling.

This is good news and I hope residents across Cornwall will benefit from this work as it progresses.

Regarding the air quality diffiusion tubes, Environmental Protection carried out a 4 month survey, a significant number of tubes were missing (most likely by people walking past), the survey in Mevagissey ended Oct 2021.

It is difficult to draw any conclusions regards impact/position of summer traffic restrictions **HOWEVER** the data is quite clear in demonstrating that the air quality in Mevagissey is very good. For reference the air quality objective is 40 ug/m3, the highest result we found was 15.5 ug/m3 which is significantly below this threshold. Whilst congestion produces more emissions there has to be circa 5000 vehicles per day before the air quality objectives are at risk of failing, exhaust emissions are reducing due to cleaner vehicles. There is now not such a clear link between congestion and failing air quality.

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| New ref | Address | Result (July 21) | Result (August 21) | Result (September 21) | Result (October 21) |
| MEV1 | Church Street | **14.14 ug/m3** | **14.69 ug/m3** | **13.26 ug/m3** | **Missing** |
| MEV2 | Fore Street (bottom) | Missing | 13.53 **ug/m3** | 13.03 **ug/m3** | Missing |
| MEV3 | Tregonney Hill/Fore Street | **9.63 ug/m3** | **9.62 ug/m3** | **12.27 ug/m3** | **Missing** |
| MEV4 | Fore Street/Polkirt Hill | Missing | Missing | 15.50 **ug/m3** | Missing |
| MEV5 | River Street | Missing | 10.6 **ug/m3** | 12.80 **ug/m3** | Missing |

It is disappointing that someone apparently felt the need to take some of the tubes, but it does appear that the data as it stands did not indicate there was a problem with air quality in Mevagissey as it stands.

Finally, last week I met with Carol Mould, who is the Cabinet Member for Neighbourhoods at Cornwall Council, in Mevagissey, along with the Chair of the Parish Council. We spoke about a number of issues, including continuing work to progress the devolution package for the parish council and my frustration that Cornwall Council should be doing more to prevent holiday lets from using domestic waste services. As I have said previously, Cornwall Council is now taking steps to identify those properties that have been abusing the system, but I want to know what further steps they are taking to crackdown on them once this happens. I’ll provide more information on this when I get it!

I look forward to continuing to work with you all as we go forward into 2022 and beyond.