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

I hope you are all well as get into rainy February!

I have had two meetings with Cllr Chamberlain at Trewinney Cemetery, most recently this week where we also had one of Cormac's Environment Managers present.

Cllr Chamberlain has identified a number of maintanance issues following feedback from local residents, and these have all now been passed to Cormac to look at addressing them.

It's also handy to see the new gate and pathway installed at the back of the cemetery which will stop people getting muddy when accessing it through the larger gate that used to be the only option when entering the site from this direction.

Also earlier this week I visited the roadworks on Vicarage Hill and met with Cormac to discuss how they are going.

They have excavated around the old pipe and I have taken a photo to show close the telegraph pole is to it, they think this might be what is causing the issue. They have had to divert the Spring, which is flowing faster because of the rain, from the gullet above and across the road. They reckon this is going to take a few days longer than originally planned due to practicalities of working with a digger at this location, but hope they will be finished by Friday, weather permitting.

I also walked back up the hill with an operative and showed him some of the other highway features that need clearing. They are going to scrape the hedge back to its original boundary and have requested a flail too. Hopefully this will all help.

Also on highways matters, I spent some time at the weekend walking around Meva photographing fading white lines and highway markings (as you do), and reporting to Cormac.

The ones near the Central Cafe are due to be reviewed and altered slightly soon as part of the Community Network Highways Scheme as requested by the Parish Council.

Cormac have said they will look at going over the others in the new financial year.

If the Parish Council has got any other examples around Mevagissey Parish, then email me or post them on here and I will ask for them to also be considered.

I have also reported several incidents of fly-tipping both around Meadow Street and the St George’s Flats, which have been promptly removed.

I have chased Royal Mail about the missing post box on Tregoney Hill, and they have confirmed they hope to have it replaced on 23 February.

I have also chased Ocean Housing about carrying out more maintenance work on St George’s Flats, which Ocean agreed to do following an initial report from Cllr Barham.

I also met with Meike Weiser, who is a new Cornwall Council officer for the Forest for Cornwall, to identify possible tree planting projects to grow a Forest for Mevagissey.

I passed on details of our new tree wardens to her Meike, who I understand have now been included in an induction process.

While I am still awaiting the rescheduled the tree planting event at Valley Road Park with the community and CORMAC, she also wanted to guage the community interest for more future tree plantings

Meike is happy to give a short presentation to interested parties or groups to spread the idea about the F4C – perhaps this is of interest to the Parish Council for a future parish council meeting?

In a nutshell -the Forest for Cornwall team offers support to communities, schools, Parish and Town Councils, as well as private land owners to empower them to grow, plant and nurture new trees and woodlands that meet local needs. They can point interested people to funding opportunities for trees -hedges-orchards, offer technical advice and guidance on tree planting and aftercare, growing trees from seed, training and advice .

Of particular interest, the ‘Forest for My Place’ funded by the Woodland Trust , is one of the many project strands under the F4C programme and aims to facilitate a deeper engagement of local people with their trees and woodlands, through promoting the Tree Warden Scheme, Landmark Tree scheme for local Parishes, orchard projects in parks or schools grounds, new hedges or municipal trees. The Project will gather ‘Tales from the Forest’ by offering opportunities for local people to connect with trees in their landscape, history and woodland use.

The project aims to create successful partnerships at a local level, connecting like minded people to develop a tree planting programme for the wider local community which can then be supported with a long term management plan, to ensure the new trees will be looked after well into the future.

A good working example is the Forest for Calstock, a community initiative led by the local council in partnership with the Forest for Cornwall. Meike said she was sure a similar project will be possible for Mevagissey.

I thought it would be worth highlighting some good news that has come out around private parking, with a new code of conduct for private car parks announced last week.

Fresh measures proposed in the new Code and Framework include the creation of a mandatory single Appeals Service and Appeals Charter for motorists to turn to if they are unfairly fined. Under options set out in the Appeals Charter, motorists could be able to appeal their fine and see it cancelled entirely if:

* they have a mitigating reason for overstaying their parking ticket such as their vehicle breaking down
* they have made a genuine innocent error, like keying in a digit in their number plate incorrectly
* they have a valid ticket, permit or Blue Badge but failed to display it correctly

The Code also states:

* New parking charge levels which will mirror the local authority system for publicly accessible car parks, halving parking charges for millions of motorists to £50. It will keep the current £100 cap in some circumstances such as abusing Blue Badge bays or if a motorist is trespassing on private land.
* Motorists will be offered a 50% discount if they pay within 14 days.
* Parking debt collectors will be banned from adding additional excess fees to the level of the parking charge, currently as much as £70.
* A compulsory 10-minute grace periods before firms can issue a late fine.
* A compulsory 5-minute cooling-off period in which a motorist can consider the terms and conditions and change their mind about parking.
* A crackdown on parking firms using aggressive or pseudo-legal language to intimidate motorists into paying fines.
* A requirement for parking firms to clearly display pricing and terms and conditions of parking, contact details and how to appeal a charge.

Parking issues at one particular car park in Mevagissey (not Willow!) are regularly raised with me and the parish council by local people and visitors alike, so I am pleased to see these changes coming forward.

Just before this meeting this evening, Cornwall Council contacted the clerk and I about replacing Valley Road bus stop.

Cornwall Council's bus shelter cleaning/maintenance contractor (Fernbank  
Advertising) have kindly offered to provide a new free of charge "living  
roof" design advertising bus shelter, to replace the old shelter on Valley Road.  
  
The "living roof" design shelter contains sedum plants on the roof and is a  
new concept shelter which Fernbank offer.  The sedum plants help with carbon  
capture from exhaust emissions and encourage biodiversity.  The shelter  
would be maintained (including the sedum planting) and cleaned also by  
Fernbank Advertising as part of our existing arrangement.

They are proposing to this at nil cost.

I have checked with Highways and they have no objections to the change.

I have also checked with the officer who originally contacted us and the maintenance would be carried out fortnightly when the advertisements are changed.

I think this is a good idea and have replied saying I am happy for them to do it, as long as it is properly maintained. I would welcome thoughts from the Parish Council on this and hope you would support it.   
  
Attached are some example pictures I have had from Fernbank which shows the  
style of shelter they are proposing to offer at nil cost and some pictures  
of the current shelter

Finally, on Sunday I ran my first organised beach clean of the year. Thanks to everyone who came out for the Love Your Beach beach clean for Cornwall Wildlife Trust and the Three Bays Wildlife Group at Crinnis

I am now looking at planning further events in March as part of Keep Britain Tidy’s Great British Spring Clean.