**Cornwall Councillor Annual report – Mevagissey Parish 2023**

I am pleased to now be in my ninth year as divisional member for Mevagissey Parish and would like to thank the Parish Council, and residents and businesses in general for your continued support.

I continue to work on a variety of local issues, and in all areas like to work closely with my parish councils to achieve real positive change and help address longstanding issues.

A few highlights include:

Working with all concerned to resolve the Polstreath Beach access issue – something which I look forward to continuing to work with the parish council for future arrangements to safeguard Polstreath access for ours and future generations.

Working with Steve Double MP and the local fishing community to ensure a bylaw that could have stopped inshore fishing boats from fishing from their traditional fishing grounds was scrapped.

Working closely with Cornwall Council and the Harbour Trust to ensure a successful bid for funding towards a new accessible ramp for Island Quay beach.

I like to be mostly positive in my reports, but must say that I remain very disappointed at Cornwall Council’s continued poor handling of the devolution package request, which has yet to be brought to a conclusion, despite work on it taking place since 2019.

I also continue to include the Parish in my regular ongoing litter pick and beach clean schedule.

I have also in my day to day work, continued to get out and about, meeting local residents, organisations, and businesses and always try my best to represent your issues and interests at County Hall.

There are always loads of local casework issues ongoing, particularly regarding potholes and verge trimming – I do my best to get a speedy and positive response once I get involved.

On a Cornwall-wide note, at Cornwall Council over the past year, I have been pleased to have led on a motion supporting the NFU’s call for a national ban on sky lanterns, following up from my successful campaign to ban them being launched at licensed events or from Cornwall Council land in 2015. I will also shortly be putting forward a motion for the council to recognise young people with care experience as a protected characteristic.

With regards to my Community Chest, I have awarded grants over the past year to St Andrew’s Church for the Flower Festival, to the Fisherman’s Mission towards the Salty Cove book project, to Mevagissey Christmas Lights, and to Mevagissey Feast Week for their excellent work in looking after Battery Park.

Finally, with the Platinum Jubilee, Funeral of Queen Elizabeth II and Coronation of Charles III, we have seen historic events over the past year and I have been honoured to represent the parish at the Cornwall Civic events to mark these occasions, as well as taking part in local events to mark them.

I would like to congratulate the Parish Council on their excellent work and positive approach and attitude. You are a pleasure to work with and I always look forward to coming to the monthly meetings.