**Cornwall Councillor Report – Mevagissey Parish – May 2023**

I hope you are all well as we go through May.

In some highlights from my work for you over the past month:

Cormac have finally confirmed that Pentillie Field will be cut to the amenity standard going forward. I haven’t visited recently so am unsure if they are holding off on doing this until after May, for which Cornwall Council traditionally have a ‘No Mow May’ policy, or if they did it in April, which is when they confirmed their decision. This was at the request of both myself and the Parish Council.

Cormac have also kindly agreed to do the additional works in Portmellon that I requested on the old road out of the cove, but have delayed their works planned for the lower part of the road to Portmellon Park, because this would involve the closure of two roads on the Eastern side of Portmellon, which is 'seasonally sensitive' they are all going to not do it in the summer but will do it all in one go, dates tbc, in the autumn.

On 11 May I attended another meeting with representatives from the Harbour Trust, Environment Agency and Cornwall Council around possible flood prevention funding for Mevagissey. A number of routes for potential funding have been identified, both from the Shared Prosperity Fund but also from DEFRA via the EA, as well as finding to provide capacity to write bids from the SPF. I have offered support in any of these bids should they decide to move forward with them.

I also remain happy to chair a meeting of the Harbour Trust and the Parish Council and await a further date for this.

It was also good to see the Harbour Trust’s success in their application to the Shared Prosperity Fund towards a new accessible ramp on Island Quay, following a successful bid to Cornwall Council. Having brought the responsible Cabinet Member, Louis Gardner, down to Mevagissey last August to see the proposals and help gather public support for the proposals, I am told by Cornwall Council that the Harbour Trust subsequently put in an exemplary bid and should be congratulated for their diligence in preparing and submitting it.

The permissive path agreement at Polstreath has been passed to Cornwall Council’s legal department to draw up a long term access arrangement. More updates on this when I have them.

Cornwall Council have come back to me with revised details of the devolution package. I suggest a meeting with parish council and relevant council officers to discuss details and agree a way forward.

Recently I was contacted by Mevagissey School asking about opportunities to plant some Jubilee Trees trees locally.

I have vivid memories, when I was at Mevagissey School of going up to Heligan and planting trees, which I can still visit today.

So I contacted Heligan about seeing if they could do something similar.

The excellent Heligan team put something together lightning quick, and today it was great to go up with the current Year 6's and help with planting the trees.

It was great to see them enjoying themselves in the sunshine after Sats last week, and they did a brilliant job of planting the trees, ably assisted by Mark and the Heligan team.

A great piece of community work, thanks to everyone involved for making it happen.

I have put more dog poo fine stickers up on Cliff Street and the Cliff following requests from residents.

Cornwall Council have been in touch about upcoming changes to waste and recycling collections, which will be taking place later this year.

Construction works are being carried out to prepare Cornwall’s rubbish and recycling transfer sites for the introduction of weekly food waste collections. While the facilities are upgraded, some sites will be closed, and crews will need to take different routes while making collections.

This means that from May rubbish, recycling and garden waste collection times may be earlier or later than usual in some areas.

All households are being reminded to put their rubbish, recycling and garden waste out at 7am on their designated collection days to make sure they don’t miss their collections.

Temporary changes to recycling processing

During the works, there will be temporary changes to the way some recycling is processed. Some recyclable materials collected from Cornwall homes will be transported to other recycling facilities in the South West. These materials will be mixed during transport but will be re-sorted once they arrive at the recycling facility. All recycling collected from households in Cornwall will be recycled.

Cornwall Council is asking that everyone continues to sort their recycling into their recycling bags and box as usual before they put it out for collection.

Weekly food waste collections and fortnightly rubbish and recycling collections

Later this year Cornwall Council will introduce weekly food waste collections and fortnightly rubbish and recycling collections to all households across the county. The new collections will be rolled out in five stages, area by area.

Food waste containers and a wheelie bin or protective sack will be supplied to each household in advance.

Each household will be contacted directly with more information about the new services before they are introduced in their area. In the meantime, residents who need more recycling bags or boxes can order them via Cornwall Council’s website.

There’s more information about the new food waste, rubbish and recycling collections on Cornwall Council’s website.

I have already been in touch with the senior responsible councillor for this area as there will be a number of households in our area, in the centre of Mevagissey for example, that will not have capacity to take a wheelie bin, and have been assured they will be contacted individually as below. Wait and see for now...

Regarding the Shared Prosperity Fund, on 9 May Cornwall Council launched another strand of this with a new £4.6m pot of funding for rural communities and businesses, with eligible organisations encouraged to put forward projects that will strengthen those areas and provide new opportunities for residents.

The money is for investment into community infrastructure and nature-based solutions that maximise Cornwall’s unique natural assets and complement wider aims around net zero transition and nature recovery.

Examples of schemes that can apply for funding of £200,000 up to £1m include:

• Development or improvements to local nature trails, information boards and visitor centres that encourage tourists to visit outside of the normal peak summer season

• Increasing accessibility and use of green and blue spaces such as community gardens, watercourses and footpaths

• Restoration, refurbishment or improvement of cultural, historic, natural and heritage assets and sites

• Active travel infrastructure, such as cycling and walking routes, in rural and remote communities, that link to existing networks and public transport.

The Rural England Prosperity Fund, awarded by the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA), will be delivered alongside the Cornwall and Isles of Scilly Good Growth Fund.

Applications for the Rural Fund are open now with a closing date of 24 of July 2023. Successful applicants will have until the end of March 2025 to complete their projects.'

Further details can be found on the Cornwall and Isles of Scilly Good Growth Fund website.

Finally, it was good to represent Mevagissey and St Austell Bay Division at the Cornwall Civic Service to mark the Coronation of King Charles III on 7 May. I also spent that weekend attending various civic events and street parties locally – thanks to everyone who invited us!