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

I hope you are all well and enjoyed the summer, changeable weather and all!

I did manage to take a couple of weeks off over August so haven’t been as busy as usual.

The various bits of community action work I do traditionally has a bit of a pause in July/August due to the summer season and the fact that everyone and everywhere tends to get a bit busy during those weeks.

Now we are in September, I am cracking through a new programme of autumn work in the village.

Firstly, on 2 September, a number of us opened up the view at the Battery and exposed the historic wall. Goodness know when this was last done. We didn't have time to do the benches but hope to get back to do those another time. If any one fancies having a go at a time convenient to them, let me know and I can get you the equipment. Thanks so much to Phil and Aza for coming out and putting in a heck of a shift!

The on 9 September, Kim Andrews and I gave the new benches at Wesley Court their first coat of stain. They look much better now and will be protected from the elements for a while.

In other community action, earlier this year a number of children wrote to me asking if I could get Pentillie Park spruced up.

I thought it would be a great idea to allow them to get involved and decide what colour to paint the equipment and then come out with their families and help me do it.

Cormac came out over August and sanded it all down and last week gave me the paint the children asked for, and brushes and other equipment.

And on 9 September we went out and completely painted the two biggest pieces of equipment that needed doing. Another brilliant transformation, with the children having a direct say over the action they wanted to see and then taking part to help realise it themselves.

Brilliant job to all involved and another transformative effort. I'll be getting the actual swings replaced as soon as I can arrange it, to finish the job.

Thanks to Adele Hemming for the lunch and refreshments and everyone who came out.

One of the children said it was 'the best day ever' and seeing the genuine hard work and fun that was had by all, along with the great spirit of community shown, I find it hard to disagree!

There will be more work coming up and I will provide reminders and updates before and after each session!

On other matters, I have been pleased to support bids to the Shared Prosperity Fund from Mevagissey Museum and Mevagissey Harbour, both of which have now been submitted. It has been good to recently welcome South West Water and Cornwall Council Cabinet Member for the Economy Louis Gardner to Mevagissey to seek their support for the proposals from the harbour trust.

On to everyone's favourite topic, bins, with our area at the front of the shortly arriving changes to waste and recycling, Cornwall Council started putting leaflets out to all households at the beginning of the month giving information on the new arrangements.

To recap, Cornwall Council are introducing new weekly food waste and fortnightly recycling and rubbish collections in your area from mid January 2024.

Once the new service starts, you’ll need to start separating your food waste from your rubbish ready to put out every week for us to collect in your new food waste caddy. If you’re not already, you’ll need to recycle your cardboard, glass, plastics, cans, paper and textiles.

This is because Cornwall Council will start collecting your rubbish fortnightly and, in line with most other councils, will only take rubbish put out in the bin we give you with the lid closed.

If you’re separating your food waste and recycling, your rubbish should fit in your wheelie bin or sack – it holds about 3 to 4 black bags’ worth. Cornwall Council will collect more rubbish from some households under certain circumstances which they will explain in the instruction leaflet when they deliver your green caddy.

They may need to change the day they collect your waste from you. Cornwall Council will send you a new collection calender in December. It will tell you your new collection day, if yours is changing, and the date your new service starts.

People will get a silver kitchen caddy and a starter pack of liners for separating your food waste as well as a green outdoor collection caddy. Cornwall Council say they have assessed all properties and are giving most a 180 litre wheelie bin for their rubbish. A small number that are unable to store a bin, have too many steps or are serviced by a specialist vehicle will get a 180 litre reusable protective with a delivery window available to view online in October. When your bin or sack arrives, if you think they’ve assessed your property incorrectly and it won’t work for your home, you can apply to review your assessment. Details will be provided in the instruction leaflet to be delivered inside your green caddy.

The Parish should shortly be receiving information on the St Austell and Mevagissey Community Network Highways scheme, which has an allocation of £65,140.47 (this includes a 5% contingency for inflationary increases) remaining to spend for the financial year 2024/25. These will be signed off at a meeting to be held during January 2024; final recommendations will be submitted for approval to the Cornwall South Community Area Partnership and then the Portfolio Holder for Transport. Expressions of Interest must be submitted to the Community Link officer by Monday 30th October 2023 so that they can be assessed and costed in time for the meeting in January. The Link Officer told me they would be sending this information to parish councils in the next week but I thought it would be useful to highlight it to you earlier in order to get the most time to consider any potential bids.

Finally on 3 September, it was an honour, as ever, to join Harbour staff, Mevagissey Coastguard, Harbour Trustees and Cap. (and Father in law!) Hugh Bowles to mark Merchant Navy Day, with the raising of the Red Ensign at the aquarium.

As ever, should people need my assistance with anything, please contact me on 07885 277670 or at cllr.james.mustoe@cornwall.gov.uk