**Cornwall Councillor Annual report – Mevagissey Parish 2024**

I am pleased to now be in my tenth year as a Cornwall Councillor 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 Mevagissey Harbour Trust and Cornwall Council on a successful bid for over £100,000 from the Shared Prosperity Fund for the new accessible ramp from Island Quay. This has now been completed (I used it last week!) and makes this a safe place to launch paddle boards and canoes from, and much more accessible to the wider public. This will improve the leisure offer from the harbour and be a brilliant place for people who will be able to access the sea and beach for physical and mental wellbeing.
* Working with Mevagissey Harbour Trust and Cornwall Council on a successful bid for £900,000 from the Shared Prosperity Fund for works to improve the resilience of the outer harbour.
* Working with Cornwall Council, Climate Vision and the Westcountry Rivers Trust to successfully bid for £280,000 from DEFRA for natural flooding management solutions for the Mevagissey catchment for fluvial flooding.
* Working with Mevagissey and District Museum and Cornwall Council for a £52,000 successful bid from the Shared Prosperity Fund to replace and upgrade the entrance of the museum.

All of the above were long-winded pieces of work that have been going on for months or even years and I’d like to thank all involved for sticking with the process and getting the best results for the parish!

* Working with Mevagissey Parish Council to get a reduced speed limit between Pentewan and Mevagissey on the B3273 via the Community Area Partnership Highways Scheme – this should be implemented later this year.
* Working with the local community to fully refurbish the play equipment at Pentillie Park. This was my favourite thing to do as a councillor last year and I hope to do something similar with Mevagissey School at Valley Road Park later this year.
* It was also great to do some fairly substantial community gardening with local people, laying a new path at Pentillie and clearing the area above Battery Park to open out the view from the coastpath.
* Worked with Mevagissey School to plant trees and flowers on the green space on Valley Road with the sign on it.

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. One particular issue that seemed to be a real problem in Mevagissey was the rollout of the new waste and recycling contract, and I had to deal with literally hundreds of requests around this when the rollout happened earlier in 2024. This does seem to have calmed down now though, but hopefully it was a good learning experience for Cornwall Council as they continue to roll this out across Cornwall.

On a Cornwall-wide note, at Cornwall Council over the past year, I have been pleased to have led on a motion for the council to recognise young people with care experience as a protected characteristic, as well as supporting a motion calling on the ensure the council considers the impact on the sea around Cornwall when it makes decisions.

With regards to my Community Chest, I have awarded grants over the past year to Mevagissey Youth Club, Mevagissey Guides, the Fishermen’s Mission to provide copies of the Salty Cove book to local schools, and also to fund replacing the swings at Pentillie Park.

Finally, I love getting involved as a volunteer in the various community events in the parish and in particular last year, it was great to do so during Feast Week and the Shanty Festival – both brilliant highlights for the parish, and my thanks to everyone who volunteers and gives their time in this way.

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.