**Cornwall Councillor Report – Mevagissey Parish - January 2024**

Happy New Year to everyone. I hope you all managed to have some time with your loved ones or otherwise were able to relax over the Christmas period, and my thanks and gratitude as ever goes to all those who serve in the forces, emergency services, care sectors and hospitality and others who carried on working throughout.

It was great to take part in so many of the festive events around Mevagissey, with our highlights for this year being the rather soggy but incredibly well attended Christmas lights switch on, the wonderful Crib Service at St Peter’s on Christmas Eve, and our traditional New Year’s Dip at Portmellon to start 2024 in style (albeit rather cold).

As it tends to do, Cornwall Council shut down for a few weeks over the Christmas period, so updates have been a bit thin on the ground.

My time so far this year has been dominated by two things – the rollout of the new waste and recycling contract, which as of writing was due to start on the week commencing the 15th of January, and the incredibly disruptive South West Water roadworks, which were due to be in place from 8 January to 19 January.

The rollout of the new waste and recycling contract is on paper, a good thing. We all need to recycle more, as historically Cornwall has lagged behind the rest of the country in recycling rates, and many other areas of the UK (regardless of whether we think Cornwall is its own country or not) already have successfully adopted a similar system successfully.

The old Restormel area was due to be the first part of Cornwall to have the new service rolled out, so some teething problems were probably to be expected. What I didn’t expect though, was the sheer number of ways in which the rollout in Mevagissey has been botched. In the space of a week, properties were delivered multiple sets of bins, some properties were missed and still haven’t had their bins, holiday lets who weren’t supposed to get bins were given bins. Places like Wesley Court, and Heligan House which clearly weren’t suitable for wheelie bins suddenly acquired dozens of the things, And mysteriously the waste and recycling calendar sent around by Cornwall Council only had 11 months, with the part of the month of December 2024 now being played by a wheelie bin. So I think it is fair to say I spent a lot of time through December and January trying to help resolve some of these issues, getting just for example, 106 contacts about bins in just one day at one point.

If, for some reason, you still have an outstanding problem with your bins, please contact me and I will try to get it resolved for you.

Then there were the road works on Church Street which saw the one system closed as South West Water dug up various points in order to make improvements to their waste water infrastructure. A common misconception appears to be that all roadworks are somehow the responsibility and cost of Cornwall Council, which is something I discovered when many people suddenly started contacting me about them.

In this case, the roadworks are/were the responsibility of South West Water, and their contractors Glanville, who were doing the digging, and Amberon, who were supposed to be responsible for the traffic control. I say ‘supposed to be’ because, what actually happened appeared to be the exact opposite, with diversion signs put up facing the wrong way, traffic control not happening, and some people apparently asleep at their posts.

Luckily, as of the time of writing, the fair weather we had during the first part of the closure meant the Glanville team were able to crack on and do most of their work in the first week, reopening for the weekend and due to come back and finish for a couple of days in the second week. We shall see what happens!

So an eventful couple of weeks for me so far as we go into 2024. I am looking forward to setting out my regular series of February beach cleans and litter picks soon and have numerous other bits and bobs planned for the year – let's see how it goes!

I look forward to working with Mevagissey Parish Council for the residents of the parish as we go through 2024 and beyond.

As ever, should anyone need to contact me about anything please feel free to do so at cllr.james.mustoe@cornwall.gov.uk or on 07885 277670