**Cornwall Councillor Report – Mevagissey Parish – March 2024**

I hope everyone is well as go through March.

This month I wanted to focus on some really good news announced in the past month that will help combat some of the flooding issues we have in the parish.

Getting better flood protection is something I have wanted to see for many years – between 2017 and 2021 I worked with Cornwall Council in bringing up a variety of proposals that were submitted to DEFRA to combat flooding from the land (fluvial flooding), but sadly these proposals were not taken forward.

However as the work had been done in putting the bids together, I was hopeful that subsequent bids would be more successful.

This has now happened, and in February a £280,000 project to naturally manage fluvial flooding in the Mevagissey catchment was one of forty projects nationally announced by Floods Minister Robbie Moore to benefit from a £25 million government programme.

Part of the government’s plan to increase the nation’s flood resilience is to make use of natural flood management processes. This includes projects to protect, restore, and mimic the natural functions of catchments, floodplains and the coast to store and slow the flow of water.

The announcement comes after a wide range of applications were submitted to the Environment Agency by community groups, environmental charities and councils for grants, following the launch of the largest-ever investment in natural flood management schemes in September last year. The Environment Agency led a review of these applications, with input from Defra and Natural England.

The Climate Resilient Mevagissey project, led by the Westcountry Rivers Trust, alongside Cornwall Council and Climate Vision, along with farmers and communities around Mevagissey, seeks to build resilience in the soils and habitats around the catchment that feeds into Mevagissey, so that when it rains the water runoff is released slowly rather than suddenly. It will also mean that the water is less ‘dirty’ and is clearer and cleaner. This would not only help reduce the risk of flood waters overwhelming the town but also improve the water quality going into this important working harbour.

The proposals make a clear and persuasive argument on green and sustainable steps that can be taken to reduce flooding in our parish and it I have been pleased to see the enthusiastic endorsement from the local farming community in particular.

I hope to see the Climate Resilient Mevagissey project designed and in place to make a real positive difference for the community of Mevagissey in the future.

The Environment Agency is managing the new £25 million programme with work taking place from now until March 2027.

The programme will help meet the goals of the National Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management Strategy for England, which provides a longer-term vision of how we will better protect and prepare homes and businesses from flooding and coastal change and create climate resilient places.

It has been good to see work start on the accessible ramp from Island Quay by the Harbour Trust, work that was funded by Shared Prosperity Funding delivered by Cornwall Council that both myself and the parish council backed.

I have met with residents on Cliff Street and Cormac, who want to see a Traffic Regulation Order (TRO) put in to restrict non-residential traffic to the bottom part of Cliff Street. If implemented this would stop peoples sat navs directing them down there. Cormac have said this is achievable and something they could potentially support but that it would need to come via the residents to the parish council and then taken up as a future Community Area Partnership scheme.

Speaking of these schemes I was pleased to recommend the Mevagissey CAP scheme to proceed forward for Valley Road at the CAP Highways Sub Committee meeting on 27 February.

During the recent poor weather Oliver Quay was unavoidably closed for several days after a nearby property sustained damage to its roof. The owner has now made a repair and the road has reopened.

It was good to recently visit Trewinney Cemetery and see it looking so neat and tidy, with everything well maintained and the old pieces of equipment removed and walls fixed. Thanks to Cormac for doing the work and the formidable Parish Councillor Katheryn Prynn for prodding them, and me, to get it done. I also did a litter pick around the perimeter and it was pretty clear. I am going to sort the paint on the main gates out shortly, as I think it looks pretty scruffy at the moment.

Cormac should also replace the swing seats in Pentillie soon, funded by my Community Chest money, which will mean all of the work I have been working to do on that site will be finished.

I did ask Cormac about potentially removing the fly-posters that were raised at the parish council last month, but they advised they were unable to as the assets the fly posters were on weren’t Cornwall Council assets. I have visited an removed a number of them myself and want to put on record that all fly-posting is illegal, so please don’t do it.

Of course, I’m really busy helping with all sorts of other bits and bobs around the parish, some public and some private, but I hope the above pieces of information provide a helpful snapshot of some of the more noteworthy things from the last month or so.

As ever, should you need my assistance with anything, please get in touch at cllr.james.mustoe@cornwall.gov.uk or on 07885277670.