**Cornwall Councillor update – Mevagissey Parish – July 2024**

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

At the time of writing this update (15 July), we have had a bit of nice weather over the weekend, but then it’s been torrential rain all day so far today, so hopefully that’s not our summer over!

Last week I had an excellent time at Valley Road Park, giving some of the play equipment a fresh coat of paint.

Thanks to Cormac , who provided the paint and brushes, staff and year 5 and 6 pupils from Mevagissey School, who chose the colours and put in a shift with a great deal of enthusiasm to do two thirds of the work, and then super mega special thanks to Jeremy Roberts and Helen Hereward, who answered my cry for help and came along after the children had to go back to school, and did another hour with me to finish them off.

It has been great to see the work on Mevagissey Museum’s roof, enabled by a successful bid for £56,000 from Cornwall Council’s Community Levelling Up Programme along with £20,000 raised from the community, already completed.

This funding will also go towards the new entrance, which will absolutely transform the front of our museum, creating a dynamic new space as you enter the historic building, and I hope to see this finished later this year.

Feast Week was another big success and it was a pleasure to volunteer through the week for various events. Thanks, as ever, to the Feast Week Committee for the tremendous amount of work that they put in behind the scenes all year to flawlessly pull off a week that really is at the very heart of what Mevagissey is.

Up at County Hall, you might remember a few months ago that there were concerns raised after Cornwall Council's Constitution and Governance Committee voted to restrict its members from questioning members of the public and Town and Parish Councils during its meetings.

I believe it is important that as fuller debate as possible is heard when planning committees determine applications, and this decision in my mind did not allow this, and in still allowing the committee to ask questions of the applicants, could even be perceived as weighting the process in a way that it shouldn't.

Along with several other councillors, I raised concerns about this at April's Full Council meeting, and I was pleased to subsequently get the backing of all four of the parish councils in my division in calling for these changes to be reversed.

I'm pleased to see that the Constitution & Governance Committee recently met and reconsidered its decision.

The Committee resolved:

1. That all Members be permitted to ask questions of clarification of all speakers at Planning Committees;

2. That the guidance be updated to reflect what clarification should be, reflecting paragraph 2.2 of the report;

3. That the changes take effect immediately;

4. That the Monitoring Officer issues a communication to all Members following the meeting to advise on the decisions made; and

5. The guidance is otherwise updated to ensure that it is consistent with the Committee’s decisions on paragraph 12.

This is a good, common sense decision, and I thank the members of the Constitution and Governance Committee for listening and acting accordingly.

Bryan Skinner and Scott Sharples have now provided a briefing note (allhough they only did so today!) following the devolution meeting in June. Hopefully this will help parish council in their deliberations in this area.

Cormac have given me details of several areas on the SWCP where they are doing coastal access improvements, i.e. putting in or mending steps. I can’t go into more detail as to where these are at the moment, because discussions are ongoing with the various landowners, but this is a welcome commitment in terms of funding and resource from Cormac and I look forward to seeing the works completed.

Next week we have a South Cornwall Community Area Partnership event and AGM.

There will be a market stall event with a focus on Community, Health and Wellbeing. Come along to find out from local groups and organisations about the different activities and support available in our communities and to meet your local Cornwall, Town and Parish Councillors, Wednesday 24th July, 6pm at the Cornubia 31 Eastcliffe Road, Par PL24 2AQ. Parking at Par Track.

As ever, should anyone wish to contact me about any issues, please contact me at 07885277670 or cllr.james.mustoe@cornwall.gov.uk