**Cornwall Councillor Report – Mevagissey Parish - March 2023**

I have been busy over the last few weeks working to find a positive solution for the issues around the future of the access to Polstreath Beach.

Along with the Parish Council, on 23 February I put out statements about this situation publicly on social media. This is because the matter had been discussed at the two parish council meetings last week and was therefore in the public domain.

I subsequently questioned the Cabinet Member for planning about this on at Full Council on Tuesday who also kindly offered his assistance in helping to resolve this.

I have also met with Cormac’s Countryside team about this matter since, and they told me that they believed there had been positive progress towards a solution.

I have spoken at length several times with the applicant’s agent. He has now confirmed that the owner of the Trevalsa Court Hotel has instructed a solicitor to submit a Permissive Path application (the same agreement that was entered into previously) for the current access independently of any planning application.

The decision to apply separately for a Permissive Path ensures that any planning application and path application can be determined separately on their respective merits. They have agreed to meet with Council officers as part of this process, and are very happy to meet them on site to discuss the results of the audit and the timescale for work to be accrued out.

In terms of the planning matter, which still does need to be resolved, I understand from the applicant’s agent that they will be resubmitting an application, and I will be requesting a meeting with the applicant/agent, Cornwall Council’s planning department and representatives from the parish council as part of that process. This will be to discuss the planning situation only and not the access arrangements. I have said that regardless of the outcome, whether the application is refused or granted, by Cornwall Council under delegated authority or by committee, or by the planning inspector if an appeal happens, it is still right that the planning process is followed and these decisions made.

I would like to thank the applicant and agent for listening and acting accordingly, Cormac’s countryside team for their continued diligence and hard work towards the best outcome for our community, as well as to the Parish Council and local residents for making their feelings on this matter clear.

There is still some way to go, and I will continue to provide updates on this as they become available.

As before, In the meantime, Cormac have said that any feedback on potential changes to the access arrangements should be sent to:

countryside@cormacltd.co.uk

I continue to chase for a response to my complaint about Cornwall Council’s handling of the devolution package. I now have a meeting booked between me and a senior officer in April to discuss this further.

In other matters it is great to see that Cormac have trimmed the encroaching vegetation back on the wall from Hitler's Walk onto Polkirt Hill. There is lots more space now for pedestrians and vehicles alike!

It was also good to see Cormac have come back and fixed the holes in the unstable wall on The Cliff after my report in February.

Last week I walked Old Road looking at various highway defects to report, including potholes, blocked drains and vegetation that has grown out into the road. All has been reported.

Thanks to Cormac for replacing the middle bench at Portmellon Cove after I reported the original as a health and safety issue last year.

Cormac have also done their annual sea wall maintenance at Portmellon.

There was a dodgy coastpath sign that said Mavagissey at the top of Polkirt Hill. I reported it and Cormac say they have replaced it.

I was contacted about the ticket machines in Church Street and Keirs Carparks apparently disappearing over the weekend of 11-12 March

I initially thought this was a joke, but no, the machines had gone!

This was clearly unacceptable, as no one was told about this.

These carparks are used as shopping carparks, mostly by older residents who may not have access to apps or smartphones, not to mention those who need to use Keirs Carpark for the surgery.

I contacted Cornwall Council about this over the weekend and followed up again by phone on Tuesday

I have been told that this is part of a rollout of new machines that will accept card payments as well as cash. This is welcome, but I told Cornwall Council that they should have let me know when exactly this work was planned, that there should have been no gap in service, and that the machines should be replaced ASAP.

I've now had confirmation from Cornwall Council that they have an engineer on site on Tuesday 14 March and that both the River Street and Keirs Carparks ticket machines should have been operational that afternoon

I has asked that no enforcement officers visit until after the machines had been switched on, and Cornwall Council agreed to this and also said that no enforcement action will be taken with regards to the period since the old machines were removed on Friday 10 March.

They've also apologised and assured it was a one off throughout their Cornwall -wide rollout of parking machines.

Moving forwards, it is good that the machines will be taking card payments from now on.

Cormac 's Outdoors team have attended and cleared the fallen tree on the coastpath at Chapel Point that I reported on Sunday.

I have arranged a Harbour Clean on 21 March as part of Keep Britain Tidy’s Great British Spring Clean event. Please come along from 1100 on the Jetty if you want to take part. All equipment provided courtesy of me and Clean Cornwall. Thanks to the Harbour Trust for permission.

Finally, it was great to see the brilliant Mark Groom while out on my rounds recently, and I stopped to thank him for the absolutely fantastic job he does on the raised beds around the bus stop on Valley Road. A man who always goes above and beyond in his job. Thank you Mark!