

Cornwall Councillor Report - Carlyon Parish – September 2021

I hope you all at least survived the incredibly busy summer season.

Over August I met with Simon Hannaford from the RNLI to discuss safety awareness and signage across the whole of the coast of the Mevagissey and St Austell Bay Division.

I have continued to report issues of anti-social behaviour in our coastal waters to the appropriate bodies when the situation merits it. The Parish Council may be interested in responding to the Government's consultation on better regulating the use of personal watercraft aka jet skis, which went live on Monday:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/government-to-clamp-down-on-dangerous-use-of-jet-skis-with-new-legislation>

I have scheduled the first organised beach cleans that we have been able to hold in over 18 months, in conjunction with Three Bays Wildlife Group as part of the Marine Conservation Society's Great British Beach Clean Week. One was held at Mevagissey Harbour this past Saturday and two more will be held at Porthpean and Pentewan this coming Sunday. I am very happy to arrange another one at Crinnis should you want me to.

Meanwhile up at County Hall I was pleased to lead a campaign to get them to remove a fee for people purchasing affordable homes following action from councillors:

From 1 February 2021, Cornwall Council has been charging a non-refundable Section 106 eligibility assessment fee of £150 to people who are successful in purchasing an affordable/discount market scheme home in Cornwall.

Cornwall Council said this fee recovers the cost of assessing whether someone is eligible to buy an affordable home and that the fee will need to be paid by the person buying the property before they authorise the purchase.

I gathered cross party support for my motion which would have called for Cornwall Council to scrap the fee at September's Full Council meeting.

However last week, Cornwall Council confirmed it will be scrapping the charge, thus avoiding the cost of the motion coming before the council, and potentially then being looked at for months ahead of any decisions being made.

I am pleased to see Cornwall Council listen to the concerns raised by me and the cross-party group of councillors who raised this issue and demanded change.

As a relatively recent purchaser of an affordable home in 2019, which my family and I saved for years to afford, I was astounded that Cornwall Council, at the beginning of this year, in the middle of a pandemic and housing crisis, introduced a charge for people buying such a property.

People buying an affordable home are already needing help to get on the housing ladder. It takes years to save a deposit and when you purchase a house you already

have to pay thousands of pounds for solicitors fees, so it was simply abhorrent to me that Cornwall Council was contributing to this cost by charging them even more.

However I am pleased that Cornwall Council has seen sense and once this has been highlighted to the new administration, they have immediately taken steps to remove it, while ensuring that the overall service offered to the taxpayer is still a good one, and avoiding the costly process of the motion going before Full Council and proceeding through the council for months on end before a decision is made.

Finally I would like to thank the Parish Council and all involved in the organisation of the Tour of Britain party in the park at Tregrehan Mills. While the professional cyclists zipped through with their impressive entourages and police escort and were gone within seconds, the community celebrations themselves were doubly special, both as something to mark this internationally renowned event but also it felt like a really powerful and positive statement from the local community that after a difficult 18 months, they are still as resilient and strong as ever before.

Also a big well done to everyone who I gave prizes to from the hotly contested produce stall. I look forward to taking part in more community events in this special place in the future.