

Parish Precept

I'm delighted to say that, due to our continued and careful financial management, Carlyon Parish Council did not need to increase our council tax precept for 2023/24 despite inflationary pressures. We remain committed to delivering value for our residents in all the work that the council undertakes.

New Councillors

I would like to welcome Sonia and Penny who joined us as parish councillors this year, replacing Heidi and Mark. This still leaves us with two vacancies should any members of the public wish to be considered for co-option prior to the local elections next year.

Planning Applications

Since our last annual meeting we have considered 33 planning applications, 20% down on last year which I assume to be a reflection of the economy. As I've stated every year, whilst we will always robustly defend against unsuitable development, we do see that residents desire to improve their homes as a positive reflection on the fantastic location we are lucky to live in.

Parking on Sea Road

People will recall that last year the parish council purchased cones to prevent nuisance parking on parts of Sea Road during the summer months. These had some considerable success but unfortunately we had to remove them due to threats of litigation as they presented a trip hazard to some pedestrians. However, we will continue to work with Sea Road Residents Association to address summer parking issues however we can.

Tregrehan Flooding

Councillors Sonia Phillips and Lynne Parsons are making significant progress on identifying and mitigating flood risks in Tregrehan Mills. This has included a resident survey to help establish historical issues and the first community group clearance of river debris to prevent blockages. This will be a major and ongoing project until the village has a clear plan in place to prevent future flooding.

Community Celebrations

The parish council organised a successful jubilee celebration on West Crinnis Fields last June, attended by several hundred people. Further to

this we made funds available for Coronation Events across the parish this year. Residents of Tregrehan took up this offer and their event committee put on a very successful 'Tea in the Park' celebration which was enjoyed by many parish residents.

Cypress Avenue

We have now entered into an agreement with Cornwall Council that we will undertake the maintenance of Cypress Avenue. Our aspiration has always been to make Cypress Avenue an attractive gateway into Carlyon Bay and the first maintenance round has been completed removing significant levels of overgrowth on the verges and hedges. Due to bird nesting this had to be done by hand but a further, more aggressive mechanical cut will be undertaken in autumn alongside a regular maintenance schedule.

Community Forest

Thanks to Councillor Penny Hermes who organised, with the Woodland Trust, to have a community forest planted in the children's play park in Tregrehan. Around 260 native plants and trees were planted and the area has been transformed. Unfortunately, approximately 80 of the plants have been stolen and we are now considering how they will be replaced and protected.

Highways

Following the parish council's request, the 20 mph zone will now be extended on Bodelva Hill in Tregrehan and a new 20mph zone will be introduced on Beach road in Carlyon Bay. The parish council remains in regular discussions with Highways on how to improve the traffic calming on Cypress Avenue, although despite our tenacity on this issue no solution has so far been agreed.

Tregrehan Chapel and Campdowns Chapel

The parish council remains in discussions with the Methodist organisation to purchase the chapel in Tregrehan as a community hall. We've now been informed by the organisation that the purchase offer is at the top of their list for review and consequently we hope to see some progress on this opportunity in the coming months. It should also be noted that an opportunity to lease or purchase Campdowns Chapel from Cornwall Council may also present itself in the near future.

Tregrehan Jubilee Fields

After many years of waiting for Cornwall Council to have the available legal resources to start the devolution process of the fields to the parish council, we have now been informed that this work will start imminently. Consequently I very much hope that the fields are fully transferred to the parish council within the next 12 months.

Neighbourhood Development Plan

The NDP is now going through the Regulation 16 consultation with Cornwall Council and we hope that the plan will be put to public referendum in late summer this year. I'd like to remind residents that developing this plan has been a leviathan task shouldered by only a few local volunteers over the last 7 years. As ever, special thanks for this must be made to Robin Malcolm and Juliet Aylward.

West Crinnis Fields

In December 2022, Brend Hotels approached the parish council to present their 'vision' for development of the Carlyon Bay Hotel. Part of this vision included building 7 'eco lodges' at the back of the west field. To facilitate this, Brend Hotels asked the parish council if we would amend the current Local Green Space designation in the draft Neighbourhood Development plan.

Following a 6 week public consultation on the request, 62% of residents were against amending the Local Green Space designation and 38% in favour. Consequently the parish council voted in alignment with the consultation and declined to amend the Local Green Space designation.

As a consequence of this decision, Brend Hotels have made it clear that the parish council's lease on the west field will not be renewed after 2026 and that they may seek alternative uses for the field.

To mitigate any potential public access issues, the parish council is now entering a period of due-diligence to make a full assessment of deeds, covenants and historical rights of way across the land.

This topic is a main priority for the parish council and we will be working closely with all stakeholders, including Brend Hotels, to leverage the best position we can for the community.