

## Cornwall Councillor Report – Carlyon Parish – April 2024

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

Firstly, regarding the flooding issues in Tregrehan Mills, Maxwell from Cornwall Council has now presented a report from his recent work to the parish council and has already started to work through the actions highlighted in the report with the relevant parties although this may take some time.

He is also investigating more reported incidents in St Austell relating to the Charlestown Leat which I believe is connected to the issues in Tregrehan Mills (School Lane). They are currently engaged with the Harbour company in relation to the leat and hope to address a lot of the flooding issues working with them. Additionally he believes that some of the actions identified in the attached report are linked to the downstream incidents of flooding from the leat therefore hopefully by resolving these issues they can benefit not only Tregrehan but the wider St Austell Area.

To summarise, they are arranging works upstream of Garker which includes getting the vast amount of China Clay build up out of the system which has caused the catchment to clog up over the years.

Long term, Maxwell is drawing up an engineered watercourse to tie the two watercourses together. Within this scheme, they will include repairing the surface (with a new culvert) and span the breach further upstream with a footbridge (horses to use the stream to cross). Maxwell is now working with the EA and landowners but the bridleway will remain closed until the works are complete.

Generally speaking, Cormac are receiving many reports on the boggy nature of the coastpath. Unfortunately, this is a huge issue County wide (and beyond) and none of us have ever known the coast path to take such a hit during the wet winter months. They are starting their biannual coastpath surveys shortly so will have a better understanding of the trail in their areas and may have to draw down from Capital to improve/repair particularly bad sections. What we desperately need is some dry weather!

Last week I was pleased to support my neighbouring Councillor Jordan Rowse for Bethel and Holmbush, St Austell Town Council and Carlyon Parish Council in writing to back up Cornwall Council's decision to refuse planning permission to build houses on greenfield land on the border of Carlyon and St Austell Parish. This has now been appealed to the Planning Inspectorate, and I have written a letter on this, a copy of which I have sent to the Clerk.

The Planning Inspectorate will now consider all of the information provided and come back with a decision in due course, hopefully one that will continue to protect the green buffer between Carlyon and St Austell Parishes. I have sent a copy of my letter to

When I get to call a planning application in and speak at Central Planning, it is an important part of my role as Cornwall Councillor for Mevagissey and St Austell Bay.

I was worried to hear earlier this week, that changes had been made to how Central Planning Committee meetings are run, which restricted planning committee members from asking questions of members of the public and parish councillors who speak at these meetings.

I believe that in order to have an informed debate on any particular application it is vital the committee members are able to ask as many questions as possible in order to get the broadest possible understanding of what it is they are voting for. I find it helpful when committee members ask questions of me (and hopefully it's reciprocated!) as part of this process.

I am pleased that at Full Council today, the responsible committee gave assurances that these changes will be taken back to their next meeting and reviewed and hopefully reversed - something which I spoke in favour of earlier today.

I'd encourage anyone with concerns to get in touch with the committee and let them have your feedback.