

Portreath PC January 2024

I thought because of the festive season I would not have much to report on, however there is more than anticipated.

Gwel an Mor had their exhibition of the master plan for the site and I spent over two hours looking at and discussing the proposals with the representatives and it was confirmed that should a planning application be submitted, it would be for the whole of the master plan and not stage by stage. I did receive some emails regarding the possibility that some of them may be sold as second homes, however even though some may be sold on that basis, nothing at this stage is confirmed, I dare say that there will be maximum stay restrictions within the planning conditions. The other fact is that the whole of the proposal falls within the Illogan Parish Council boundary, who do not have a second home policy within their Neighbourhood Development Plan. During my discussions I did indicate the best way of getting any units on site and I know that Illogan PC were informed of my suggestion and agreed with it as most of the route was used for the delivery of the five sections that form their Parish Office. Requesting a Traffic Regulation Order to reduce the speed on Cot Road/Penpraze was also mentioned.

I attended the Portreath Arts Group exhibition in this hall before Christmas which was started by funding from my Community Chest last year and it was interesting as to how few of them had painted since leaving school, even after funding the Netball Sessions that Vicki will know doubt be talking about, I still have a little bit of funding left that has to be spent by next month if any groups are looking for some funding.

There were also communications going backwards and forwards to reduce the number of responses for a survey for the earmarked funding for the new Parish Office, could I please ask you all to support this so that the Parish Council is more accessible to all and that an eyesore is removed from Beach Road.

The illegal widening of the road by the entrance to the Rookery Farm Gypsy Site resulted in two meetings, one with Stuart Flowerday and John Thorne on behalf of the Police and the other with our recently appointed Highways Officer. The verdict of the Highways Officer was that the verge should be reinstated to the full width and he is taking the appropriate action, even

though the Police were prepared to go with him to serve the papers, bailiffs will be used instead.

My meeting with the Highways Officer then continued with a drive/walk around Portreath and the following remedial work was added to the list of works, the reinstatement of markings in Penberthy Road where the summer restrictions apply, the clearing of the surface drains in Portreath Arms Car Park since there is a Right of Way over the land, the reinstatement of markings for the Loading Bay outside The Pod along with centre lines along the North Cliffs road and the triangle at the top of Treglea Hill.

Other discussions were around the location for the zebra crossing from the beach to the toilets as the preferred location near The Atlantic Café the footpath is not Cornwall Council owned and the next location was beyond the toilets, which I indicated would mean that the public would still cross the road by the shortest route instead of walking passed and back on the other side of the road. The final option was on the bridge over the stream as visibility coming down Treglea Hill is good and the speed coming around from Beach Road would be slow, therefore it was agreed that this would be the location. Subject to public consultation this is where it will be positioned.

The junction of Forth Veian was also discussed and the response was far better from him than his predecessor that some realignment may be possible, however this would have to be considered at the next round of funding for local highways improvements.

Two final matters on highways, the 20mph roll out commences next month within the Camborne Pool, Illogan and Redruth area, which does include Portreath and at the moment there is an indicative date for week long closure of Treglea Hill between 7.30am and 5pm for the repair and resurfacing of the middle section of the hill and depending on the results of the consultation the works for the safety scheme which is 29th January until 3rd February.

Love Portreath had a Facebook post stating that Christmas trees collected by Cornwall Council go into landfill, I can assure you that they get composted and indeed no waste collected in Cornwall goes into landfill as all sites are closed and items are either recycled or go to the incinerator to produce electricity with the clinker going to road surfacing.

As Christmas and New Year are both traditional times for taking a dip in the sea and because of all the almost continuous rain we have had for two months,

before Christmas I enquired about the Boxing Day dip and the advice received was that the water was safe but as a safeguard to entre away from the stream.

On New Years Eve I asked for an update from the Public Affairs Manager.

It was once again confirmed that there has only been permitted storm overflow activity at Portreath which is due to an issue with the network which sees surface water and groundwater continuing to enter and exceeding the capacity of the sewer at Bridge Pumping Station.

They have interventions planned to reduce this infiltration into the network by 2025 with investigations due to start soon and around £150,000 is to be invested at Portreath Beach.

All bathing water samples met at least “good” or “excellent” standards and they will continue monitoring to provide reassurance to the local community.

Unfortunately I missed a meeting in November with the Environment Agency over land management, as it was Full Council in Truro, however I did catch up with a local farmer last week who informed me that the meeting was dealing with discharges into the water system from fields and trying to retain the water with the ground, which at times is difficult. Unfortunately where I live we have no surface water drains on the road and every time we get rain at the moment, because the ground is sodden we have a brown river flowing down both sides of the roads from the fields at the top of the road and then blocks the drains at the crossroads in Park Bottom.

I am waiting to see the Agendas for the Illogan Parish Councils on 17th January as to if I am required at the start, otherwise I plan to be at the meeting in the Millennium Hall until 7.15.

The final matter that is ongoing is the situation at the top of Lighthouse Hill where the caravans are dumped on unregistered land therefore nobody has a legal right to remove them as Cornwall Council only clear them from their land, which was the case with the other caravan and even the Environment Agency are unable to assist.

I submitted a request and have had confirmation that all the fly tipping along the road was going to be cleared and the mud and slurry cleared off the road surface, however on Friday I did see a tractor and slurry trailer going up the hill.