

PORTREATH REPORT JULY 29th

After not having much to say at the start of the month all of sudden there is plenty of activity around the Division and especially in Portreath.

First of all I would like to say how shocked I was to hear of the sudden passing of PCSO John Thorne who was with the force for 35 years, the first 25 as a PC and he helped to establish our Speed watch Group, his funeral is on Friday at 12noon at the Penmount Crematorium.

I will start off with the WAAF Site as after a delay the notice of refusal was issued on Friday. This was issued at the request of Classic Builders after a month of discussions with the Planning Officer who had suggested that the application was withdrawn and they would then benefit by having the opportunity to submit a free Pre-App for another scheme, even on another site. It is well known that the option to purchase the land expires on 27 October and this is subject to having planning permission and at the moment because of a shortage of Planning Inspectors against an increased workload, there is about a three month delay in between submitting an Appeal and it getting validated. There was a thought that the delay may be because of the new Governments proposal to develop on Grey land, however the Planning Officer states that this would not qualify as it has still got adjoin a settlement. At this stage we do not know Classics next steps as I dare say they will be digesting the refusal notice.

Whilst on planning, it appears that enforcement is starting to take a far more rigid approach as they are now starting to prosecute people for breaches where they have not taken remedial action within the agreed timeframe.

There are also concerns with the vans up Lighthouse Hill, especially with the amount of rubbish etc that is accumulating around them, however the complication is that they are currently situated on unregistered land which causes issues with trying to take enforcement action to clear the area.

Earlier this month we had the AGM of the North Kerrier and East Penwith Community Area Partnership and for the third consecutive year I was elected Chair. The Partnership covers 12 Town and Parish Councils in the area. Various Working Groups were confirmed, which includes one for the local Highways Scheme, even though all money is allocated for this year, it was agreed to maintain it just in case one falls out of the system so that another can be brought in. The local scheme is the proposed build out near the toilets to improve pedestrian safety whilst crossing the road.

The main priorities locally for the Partnership this year are, Climate Change and the Environment, Anti-Social Behaviour, Young People which can also tie in with Health and Wellbeing and Rural Deprivation/housing.

There was also discussion regarding weeds on verges as Cornwall Council stopped treating these in 2012 and it was agreed that this subject would be raised with the other 11 CAPS when all the Chairs and Vice Chairs have a meeting in September to see if other areas experience the same problem or pay for their areas to be treated by private contractors.

On Friday I have got a two hour tour of the Division with our Highways Manager with the main objective of getting a reduction in the speed limit along Illogan Downs and Cot Road through to Treglea Hill. The timing of this is so that he can see how dark and dangerous it is along there, even at midday because of the tree coverage. The Police are going to provide me with the latest statistics for incidents along this road and support me. My report in the next Illogan Review, which is delivered quarterly is asking residents to support me in this campaign as both Parish Councils did do earlier this year by either emailing me at cllr.david.crabtree@cornwall.gov.uk or writing c/o New County Hall or delivering a letter for my attention to the Illogan Parish Council Office. Individual letters have more of an impact than one single petition. If the lining works are not carried out this week, I will be asking for a date since extra resources were brought in to cope with the backlog.

After receiving reports about inconsiderate parking earlier today, I have asked the Portfolio Holder for Transport to increase enforcement patrols, especially from lunchtime onwards for at least the duration of the school holidays and copied in Parking Enforcement and our local Police Inspector.

Earlier this month I had to get my passport out so that I could attend the South West Region Flood and Coastal Committee in Torquay which is organised by the Environment Agency and includes a representative from South West Water. Updates were given on current and recently completed flood alleviation schemes. Following the main meeting there was an opportunity to raise concerns with the EA and I asked for an update on the Portreath Scheme that appears to have gone very quiet. Survey work was recently carried out on the stream which of course starts at Bullers Hill in Redruth and passes through large sections of privately owned land. I have received confirmation that I will be given

a full briefing in September when all parties have returned from their annual leave and since the meeting, I have reported issues with the new trash screen in Portreath.

In November last year Cornwall Council passed a Motion for the Ocean and are developing an action plan in collaboration with other Councils. Part of the motion was for the commitment for Cornwall Council to work with partners on environmental pollution matters, and associated to that they are leading a piece of work on environmental enforcement and compliance in Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly.

It is encouraging to hear that the new Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, Steve Reed earlier this month announced a series of initial steps towards ending the crisis in the water sector and we are now waiting to see the underpinning detail and legislation that is hoped will have the desired impact.

Aside from water quality, the Council are leading a plethora of work programmes and projects to support ocean conservation and recovery, including the Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly Nature Recovery Framework which will result in meaning measures for marine and coastal nature recovery. Part of this includes the placing of sea tiles mounted on the walls in both Newquay Harbour and Malpas Marina to attract various species of creatures and plant growth.