

## Annual Report

As ever, it's been a busy year for the parish council. It seems as though the workload grows year on year with all the new guidance and regulations that come through. We have now fully settled in to our new office and parish hub, which in itself has made the management of the workload so much easier and more efficient for our clerk and her assistant.

We have made some improvements and additions to the initial build, most significantly the installation of noise reducing panels to combat the echoing in the rooms. We have also planted a selection of native trees and wild flowers on the banking between the building and the stream.

The hub has been well used, both for the smaller council meetings and also use by the parishioners and other bodies. As well as the weekly coffee mornings, other neighbourhood groups such as the harbour association, Lasernet netball group and a local residents association regularly use the space. Beyond that, our MP and the local police team have held surgeries in there and the EA use it each month to provide updates to residents on the proposed flood resilience scheme.

Last Summer the village was subject to a degree of anti social behaviour from groups of young people. In an attempt to address this, the parish council engaged a professional youth worker to engage with young people to see if there were any activities we could provide to thereby reduce the ASB. Various "one off" activities have been provided and additionally fortnightly open sessions are held in the parish hub offering "chips & chill" giving young people a place to hang out. We must acknowledge and thank the Pod Café for providing the chips.

The council have been in regular contact with the EA about the flood resilience scheme and also with SWWA concerning the frequent flood overflows from the Bridge pumping station. It has to be said that the EA scheme has taken a disproportionate use of the councils' time this year dealing with enquiries from members of the public about details that only the EA have been able to provide the answers to. The full and detailed planning application is scheduled for submission in late Spring/early Summer when all parties will be able to formally express their views.

This time last year, the council had formed a working group about the possible devolution of the Lighthouse Hill amenity space from Cornwall Council. In the end Cornwall Council withdrew from the discussions, as they had decided to sell the land to get the best possible monetary return. The land was subsequently sold at auction.

We participate in outside meetings with other local organisations to share knowledge and experiences. These include the Community Area Partnership (CAP), the Police Liaison Committee and the Mining Villages Regeneration Group (MVRG). Our clerk also attends the clerks of local councils meetings which offer a great opportunity to share local knowledge, as we are not alone in facing the same challenges and together we can find solutions and generally help and support each other.

Cornwall Council have a budget for Highways Improvements scheme in our CAP and invited applications to bid for a share of that fund. The criteria were heavily weighted towards safety, health and getting people to use the offroad areas such as the trails and public rights of way. We submitted a proposal to widen and improve the surface of a narrow section of the

Tramway adjacent to Bridge. We are pleased that our scheme has been shortlisted for financial evaluation and the final decision will be made in the coming months by Cornwall Council officers and Councillors.

After the affordable housing scheme on the former WAAF Site was turned down by the planning department, a working group was set up to see what could (if anything) be done with the land into the future. Many options were considered and evaluated before a recommendation was put to the council for consideration. The council are now awaiting a formal Liability Assessment of the land by a qualified land surveyor prior to making a final decision on this.

Finally, and certainly not least, the annual Remembrance parade and service was held in November. As ever, this was very well attended by community groups and residents alike. We offer our thanks to the Illogan Sparnon Band for providing the music. What may seem to be a small event that only covers a couple of hours is actually the result of much preparation and planning in the preceding months. The work of our clerk on this has to be commended.