

Chairmans report October 2026

1. The clerk has forwarded all councillors a link to the relevant page on the EA website which gives a lot of information including responses to the FAQs that have been raised. The planning application for this will probably one of the biggest the parish council will ever need to consider. Therefore, I encourage all councillors to thoroughly read this to fully understand the proposed scheme. We have received a number of letters from concerned parishioners (and will maybe receive more) about the scheme asking that we fully scrutinise & evaluate the proposal.
2. I attended the meeting of the CAP Housing & Planning workgroup. Apart from other councillors from across the CAP, Matthew Brown - Strategic Planning Manager of Cornwall Council and James Cox of Coastline Housing were in attendance. The challenges faced by Cornwall Council to meet the government new homes target were discussed and county wide statistics were shown. The group has now asked for the equivalent figures for our CAP so we can understand better our local problems.
3. Later the same day, I also attended the Local Council Training Teams meeting hosted by Matthew Brown who gave a presentation about the lack of housing viability across the county. This is partly because of government policy, but also due to CC policies. MB explained what CC were doing to ease the cashflow of developers to encourage construction. It varies across the five zones and the most expensive areas are more viable due to the higher end values of the properties. Value zone 5, of which we are a part, is the least viable. Building costs were stated to have risen from around £2650 per square metre to £2800 over the last three years. Profits on social house building is around 6-8% and for open market building is about 16-18%.
4. I attended the quarterly meeting of the MVRG. A presentation was given by Loic Rich, Cornwall Council portfolio holder for the Environment. I asked two questions of him. First was if there was an update on CCs policy for the use of Glyphosate. He said that that he knew an e.mail was being sent to CALC that same day outlining the latest offer to town and parish councils to take on the duties of weed clearance, but he didn't know the payment figure or any other details that were being offered. (This has since been received). Secondly, I asked him if he had had any input into the EAs flood resilience project, in Portreath, as he had stated that flood mitigation was a part of his portfolio. He said that he hadn't and only knew about it from articles in the paper. I was left wondering what he did know or do about any of his roles! It was suggested by the MVRG members that this could be an opportunity for all councils in the MVRG to work collaboratively on this to provide a consistent approach and response to CC, if it seemed appropriate.
5. I chaired to opening kick-off meeting of the group of volunteer councillors & parishioners that have stepped up to be the working party that will conduct the consultation process and draw up a Neighbourhood Priority Statement on behalf of the parish council. I gave an overview of what the NPS process was about and what needed to be done along with the timescale involved. After this, it was put to the

group to choose a Chairperson and Vice Chair. Cllr Dave Crabtree was chosen as Chair and parishioner Heather Mullin the Vice Chair.

6. I attended the Cornwall Council presentation that gave an update on the changes to the planning process highlighting what in future will be allowed to go to Committee and what will not. More decisions will be done under the planning officers delegated authority. The 5 day notice system will remain to appeal against an officer decision, but it has to go through a number of steps before a decision would go to committee,
7. I attended the CAP meeting for the Children Young Peoples group. A number of items were raised that could be relevant to our youth project. e.g. Possible funding from the Rotary Club or Lions, Croft Academy Trust being willing to offer their schools as venues for youth activities, getting the fire service officers to give a talk to the young people, etc.