

PORTREATH REPORT DECEMBER 2023

This is very similar to the Chairmans Report as at times last month we were more like a double act attending various meetings.

I attended the Festival of Remembrance in Illogan Church on Saturday 11th and was one of the 40 plus victims that had their car keyed, my estimate is £1,683 for repair and the following day was the Remembrance Service when the Chairman and Cllr G Tull joined the long parade through Illogan.

The second was at the West Sub Area Planning Committee where permission was granted for the 10 additional lodges at Gwel An Mor and for those that are interested in statistics that was the 16th application for extensions to Gwel An Mor out of a total of which Cove Communities have submitted 4. During my research I was surprised to discover that permission was granted in 2013 for 55 lodges to become permanent residences.

A very interesting afternoon was spent at the Pool Innovation Centre to hear the outline of proceedings for a Public Inquiry over Common Land in Feadon Woods/Illogan Woods and unexpectedly the date was set for the hearing which will start on 25th March next year, pencilled in for four days and will be held at the same location and indeed more paperwork with vital dates was received this afternoon.

We both attended the Design West meeting regarding the proposed development on the old WAFF site which started off with a site visit then a meeting in the Coastline Offices. Ian and myself were there as observers and the panel consisted of architects from the top of the county and Exeter. At the end of the meeting they went into another room for a discussion before returning and informed Coastline and Classic that they should receive a report in two to three weeks.

The final double act was at the Community Area Partnership Community Levelling Up Programme Funding Panel Meeting. Unfortunately Ian wasn't allowed to stay for the duration because of his interest in it and of course he could not vote. The only item on the Agenda was the funding for the new Portreath Parish Council Office/Community Facility/ Heritage Centre and Tourist Information. The presentation did include a photo of the corner of Lucys living room that is currently the office.

There was interesting debate over the funding, especially as the amount requested covers almost a third of the money allocated to the North Kerrier and East Penwith CAP. I did point out that it is only a small Parish with limited opportunity to expand on housing and thereby increase possible funding from developer contributions and indeed if the money had to be borrowed the residents would be having to pay this back through their precept of which at the moment over a third goes on maintaining the toilets. The question was raised over charging for the toilets and I pointed out the VAT implications involved in this since the VAT was reclaimed on the construction costs. As Parish Councils are not VAT registered and have claimed the money back, they cannot charge for the use of this facility for 10 years. In the end the vote was unanimous in favour.

Cove Communities have their consultation events next week regarding the masterplan most of which falls within the Illogan Parish Council boundary and as many of us who were on Illogan Parish Council, 7 still are thought at the time when Bill applied for permission for the Golf Course, at some stage an application for development would be forthcoming. We all know with planning that nothing can be predetermined and everything has to run its legal course.

After many delays because of safety audits on the originally proposed schemes for the safety scheme on Tregea Hill the consultation is now open and closes on the 21st of this month. Subject to a favourable response the works will be carried out early next year with completion before Easter, which includes the resurfacing of the patchwork quilt in the middle.

The latest on the three wrecked caravans up Lighthouse Hill, or should I say skips on wheels is that as mentioned before the two on the seaward side are on unregistered land, which was confirmed by the Community Environment Enforcement Officer after a land registry search so the Council cannot become involved, however the one parked on the other side of the road will have a 14 day notice attached in the coming days. This gives the owner the opportunity to move it and the Council the right to do so after that time without the risk of prosecution for theft.

On the 14th of this month there will be an Art for Well being exhibition to be held in this hall from 2-4pm which was partly funded from my Community Chest and all are welcome to attend

You have now heard enough from me so I would like to take this opportunity to wish you a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year and I dare say you will once again keep me busy in 2024.