

MICHAEL BUNNEY
Report: April 2024. ST.MEWAN
Cornwall Councillor for St.Mewan, Grampound, St.Ewe, Pentewan Valley

I hope everyone has survived the terrible winter. I have reported many flooding issues and pot holes. Some have been resolved and other sections we are still pressing for work on

I have been very busy with planning issues and am pleased to report we have had a recent success in persuading the central planning committee to unanimously refuse the St.Stephens Rd application. Well done to the parish council and local residents for speaking so persuasively.

Community events/ projects

I continue to attend as many community events as I can and was delighted to speak at Polgooth Ladies Group last week on the history of Cornish women. I also attended Sticker Memory Café to say a few words and support them following the community chest grant I gave them. I also helped open Trewoon Community Hub this month and delighted we have so many strong community groups. I do all I can to support our community activities and here is a quick overview of other events I have supported.

St.Pirans Day was on the 5th March and I am helped organise the St.Austell Festival on Saturday 2nd March, with events across the town centre and the parade at 1.30pm. We also organised traditional Cornish singing on Gorran Haven Beach and a Cornish breakfast in the village hall afterwards. It was lovely to see some St.Mewan and St.Ewe residents join us. Gool Perran Lowen! .

I met with local historian Barry West, who is leading a memorial project on the Quaker Cemetery at Tregongeeves and the life of Loveday Hambly. We are aiming to erect a memorial and wild flower garden to mark this important historic site. I am delighted Barry is coming today to speak to you.

I have contacted the Lord Lieutenant, who has agreed to join us to open Trewoon Queen Elizabeth 11 garden on 11th April

I spoke to Grampound WI for the Centenary and Sticker WI joined us.

I donate all funds from these talks to local charities and will be handing all donations to St.Austell and Truro food banks over the winter.

It was lovely to run assemblies on Cornish history for St.Mewan School. The children were brilliant (as were the staff) and knew lots about local history. I also speak regularly at Gorran School on local history

I am also opening the St.Marks Flower Festival in Sticker in June.

Applications for my community chest will hopefully reopen at the end of April (depending on council budgets), so please encourage any groups to contact me to apply for a small grant, around £200.

I chair the White River Community Project and we have drawn up plans for nature recovery, flood mitigation and community environmental protection. We are working towards £40k of funding and have secured a commitment to provide £20k already.

I have written to Cornwall Community Land Trust to ask them for a speaker to come to speak to the parish council about land trusts. I am waiting for them to reply.

Roads, drains etc

I received many reports from residents about road problems and flooding and reported these to Highways.

We have secured agreement for a pedestrian crossing over the A390 to make it easier to cross between Higher Trehiddle and St.Mewan. I submitted this application to Highways and we pressed for better lighting and signage.

It will be constructed by March 2025

At St.Mewan School, the line repainting and additional small section of waiting restrictions has been agreed as a possible community network highways scheme and will go out for consultation later this year. This has been requested by the school for many years to improve traffic flow and I submitted an application for it.

The community highways budget has no money left now. Highways have assessed all the schemes, including the ones the parish councils submitted and have them on a waiting list. But, all highways schemes will need to be resubmitted after May 2025 now, if a budget is agreed after then.

Polgooth to London Apprentice patching has been done and is a lot better. Cormac has confirmed the road will be closed in June for surface dressing to be applied to seal the road surface. They do this in the April to Oct months usually, to allow the dressing to fix better

Following requests from Trewoon residents I contacted the transport team and got the bus stop moved in Trewoon next to the bus shelter, which obviously makes sense. This was appreciated and folk can now stay dry whilst waiting for the bus.

Resurfacing of the Trelowth bridleway has been completed and this is a major improvement. I have received many messages of thanks from residents. We have been pressing this for the last 2 years and residents have tried to get this done over the last 60 years.

I have met the area steward to look at flooding on Cooperage rd, Trewoon and he is submitting a work request for next financial year

The next 20mph meeting is on 10th June and the parish councils will be invited to consider further areas for the next phase of the 20mph zones. This will be the beginning of the consultation, but it would be helpful if the parish council could have a view on which areas you would like to be considered e.g. Sticker, Trewoon etc

Please do report any highways, drains, floods concerns via the website “report something Cornwall” www.cornwall.gov.uk/report-something or the emergency tel 03001234222

Planning.

I am involved with many planning enforcement cases, especially at Meadow Lakes, Hewas Water and will continue to work closely with the parish council on planning applications. I called the St.Stephens Rd, Sticker application to committee in April and we won a unanimous refusal. The certificate of lawfulness at Meadow Lakes has also been refused this month. I will always back up the parish’s view. I will always support your decisions and think it is important applications are in line with your neighbourhood development plan. I always stress this to developers who contact me and advise them to meet with the parish council and me if they are considering applications. I am very happy to support you and take any major applications that you are concerned about to planning committee

I continue to work hard as your Cornwall Councillor and have met many residents to help.

Oll an gwella. (All the best in Cornish)

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