

CC Report for the Town Council Meeting 26 May 2022

This report covers the period 15 April to 20 May to ensure the report can be seen by all town councillors with all other council papers prior to the above meeting.

Work has now started in and around Benodet Park. Unfortunately, the “resurfacing” which I was lead to believe would be happening is now patching the more obvious potholes in the area, slightly disappointing but at least a step in the right direction after some years of neglect/poor maintenance. This coming week should see the steps reconstructed up to the top field and boulders and bollards placed around the top car park.

Work continues with Casework Assist and in these troubling times there have been quite a few enquiries based solely on welfare needs. May I ask my fellow town councillors, should they be asked, to direct enquiries in the first instance to Citizens Advice who hold their surgery on Tuesday afternoons in the Library/Community Hub. Should an enquirer not be able to attend full information can be sought using the website www.cornwall.gov.uk/benefits-and-support/. Another enquiry received concerned pavements and lightweight mobility scooters. It transpires that these very lightweight scooters by definition, have quite light/low powered batteries and consequently if the pavement has not been dropped completely or there is a steep rise these scooters do not have the power to negotiate the rise. This got me to thinking(!) with these scooters being advertised as easy to get on and off buses surely there should be dropped kerbs on each side of the road at bus stop locations rather than the person in some cases having to go in the opposite direction of intended travel just to cross the road, okay in the Summer months but not so good in the rain/Winter months. I have arranged a drive round with Highways on Monday 23 May to identify where both incomplete dropped kerbs are sited and the possibility of having same at bus stops. I will also be taking the opportunity during the visit to once again push for the resurfacing of Goad Avenue between Grove Park and Kynance Close at least, for some reason this section of road was not included in this year’s round of resurfacing works.

A walkround of Cornwall Housing stock was scheduled for Wednesday 11 May but as you are no doubt aware that was the one day in May when we saw persistent heavy rain, this will be rescheduled for later in the year. A virtual meeting was held with the Management Committee of Cornwall Housing on Monday 25 April where quite a frank and open discussion was had over the present state of the housing stock. The new Management only took over towards the end of last year and have inherited a whole host of major issues, it will take time to return the current housing stock to an acceptable standard but there was certainly the impression that we now have a team willing to get on with the job. There will be a follow up meeting to this in the months ahead.

The Community Chest for the year 22/23 is now up and running and further to my report of last month this £3k along with £7k of extra funding will be made available for worthwhile causes that enhance/assist in any way this fantastic town of ours. One little down note here, the fund raising for the re-decoration of St James Church fell short by some £7k of the £16k needed. Hopefully we will get this extra money in over the next few months but at present that project is on hold, so unfortunately the idea of a Civic Service in a newly decorated church will not happen this year.

CC Meetings attended during this period:

Monday 25th April - Virtual Meeting with Directors of Cornwall Housing.

Saturday 30th April at New County Hall(NCH) Truro, Youth Day, I have requested the Town Clerk forward to all town councillors the press release on this matter, please note this was a joint venture between CC and Action for Children who are currently running the Youth Centre here in Torpoint.

Friday 6th May at NCH Audit Committee Meeting.

Thursday 12 May – Virtual Meeting with CC Housing Department (not to be confused with that above) over the current Housing Crisis in Cornwall.

Monday 16th May - East Area Planning Bodmin.