

PORTREATH FEBRUARY 2024 REPORT

Following on from last months meeting, I am pleased to say that the three skips on wheels at the top of Lighthouse Hill were removed by Cornwall Council, even though two of them were on unregistered land after I had had discussions regarding the rubbish blowing into the sea. The overall cost of this exercise was over £1,000 per caravan, hence you can see the reason why it was a challenge to get the extra two removed.

The other good news was not only was Tregea Hill resurfaced this week, more than a year ahead of the date I was given at the start of last year, but the Loading Bay outside The Pod is also now back in situ. This followed an interesting discussion a fortnight ago when I was asked to attend a meeting to confirm the final road markings after the public consultation feedback. I asked if this could be reinstated whilst they were marking the hill and the gentleman dealing with the proposal did not know that there was previously one there. After going back over various Street View images, the last clear indication there was one was back in 2016 and when I visited on Friday afternoon, I was pleased to see that it was included within the scheme.

Unfortunately, the clamped and abandoned vehicles mean that two sections have got to be patched as the Council has no powers to move such obstructions and the cycle lane did not proceed because of opinion and indeed when further checked the road was too narrow in a couple of places. The 30mph signs still have to be placed around the bend along with the No Loading or Unloading at Any time signage, which will then mean that both the Police and Enforcement Officers can enforce the restriction.

At the Police Liaison Meeting last week Speed Watch was discussed and I asked the question as to if the team has to take a break at the end of the month when the 20mph zones are installed and how long would it be before the Traffic Regulation Order is implemented. It appears that this now done once signage is complete, instead of three months in the first trial areas, however it is suggested that motorists are given one month so that they can adjust to the new limits, however it was confirmed by the Speed Awareness Officer that the limit will be enforced.

I received a request from one member of the public wanting to restrictions on the double yellow lines amending to a small number of properties in Chynance. Apparently, this was raised with the previous Divisional Member in 2018 and

nothing done within the three years of their remaining term. The member of the public was advised that all of our local network funding was allocated through until after the 2025 elections and that the scheme Portreath PC has supported is a crossing from the beach to the toilets. A reply from the Highways Officer has indicated that if the Parish Council wanted to consider this in any future scheme, the current cost for amending a TRO is c£8,000, but can be expected to be higher next year and any slight amendment to scheme would result in the removal of seasonal restrictions and make the rest No Waiting At Any Time 52 weeks of the year as seasonal restrictions no longer receive approval.

Wearing my other hat as a Parish Councillor, I attended an online training session last month on how to recruit and retain Councillors, bearing in mind this was a national training session I was the only Parish Councillor who attended it, along with the Clerk from Holbeach and the Engagement Officer from Dorset.

Holbeach is supposed to have 17 members but was down to 7 and now in double figures at 11. The issues raised were that many Parish Council Councils are full of old men and do not appeal to appeal to the younger members of the area, this Parish has the youngest mix of my three Parishes and all three have a good mix of male/female members.

It is suggested that as the usual time to co-opt a new member is at the end of meeting since they have no voting rights in that meeting, the first experience should not be at Full Council as they may leave before then, and yes I have seen this happen.

The Parish should try and recruit via other organisations and where possible have a continuous process by trying to build up a list of interested individuals and also have a dedicated page on the Website promoting the role of a Parish Councillor and creating awareness so that when a vacancy does occur, hopefully it will be filled by a person that does not expect to change everything in a space of 10 weeks.