CORNWALL COUNCILLOR UPDATE FOR SEPTEMBER 2023

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Cornwall Council and around the Peninsula-

Cornwall Council has been back in full flow for September with a jam packed diary, I started the month with a planning application before East Cornwall Sub area planning committee. This was for the improvement works to be done at Mount Edgcumbe's Garden Battery. The committee supported the application which has meant the Park is now able to unlock a considerable amount of funding which will ensure this fantastic building, that has been closed to the public for many years, will be accessible once again. A great way to start the month!

The same week, we had our second meeting of the Community Area Partnership for South East Cornwall, it was good to meet representatives from Parish Councils right across SE Cornwall, but sadly only Torpoint was represented from this end of the area. We had some interesting presentations from NHS Kernow, Volunteer Cornwall and others.

Following on from that, we had the first Black Prince Flower Boat festival planning meeting for next May Day's celebrations. We hope for another fantastic year for this growing event!

In the middle of the month, I was pleased to attend Cornwall Council Cabinet meeting, to speak as the seconder to a motion that I put forward with Cllr James Mustoe. The motion called for Cornwall Council to treat care experience as a protected characteristic. This was adopted unanimously, which means that this change of policy will support those that have been in care for years ahead and allow them to have equity of access to jobs and more.

It was brilliant to welcome Maverick Skateparks back to Millbrook with the final plans for our skatepark. Around the same time, we found out that planning permission had been given and that we have achieved our funding requirement. The Millbrook Skatepark Project Crew have been absolutely relentless in their driving of this project, they have worked their socks off and achieved something which normally takes years and years, in an exceptionally short amount of time. It is a huge testament to this community and the support of the surrounding Parish Councils that this has been successful ... so well done everyone involved!

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In September we also had Full Council down in County Hall. It was an incredibly light agenda, in fact we were all done by midday. It was mostly constitutional changes that were being voted on. My neighbouring Cllr, Armand Toms, put forward a motion asking Cornwall Council to fund a study and design for improvements to the A38. I was very pleased to be a supporter of his motion, but due to the cost implications (which would be large) the motion was sent to cabinet to be discussed. This means that a report will have to be written on the idea and it will be discussed again, which means we can keep this important issue at the top of the agenda.

I was delighted to attend HMS Raleigh's Freedom of Torpoint parade during September, over 300 sailors marched through the town and exercised their right to the freedom of the town - it was an impressive event and exceptionally well run. On the same Sunday, I visited Kingfisher's preschool in Kingsand to attend their open day. My youngest went to Kingfishers, so it was a real treat to take her with me, we both had the most excellent afternoon of apple pressing and memories.

Finally, I finished the month with a visit to HMS Raleigh for a passing out parade after lunch with the Captain - I took my elder brother with me as my guest this time, some 26 years after he passed out from Raleigh himself.

Throughout the month I attended Parish and Town Council meetings as well as visiting residents with casework issues - housing still the number one issue that comes up, with no sign of improving yet.