

Annual Parish Meeting May 2022

Annual Report of St Sampson Parish Council:

Neighbourhood Development Plan:

One of our more technical and demanding issues was finally concluded during the year, when Siobhan successfully managed to steer us through to complete our Neighbourhood Development Plan. This is now available for all to see on the Parish Council web site, which (as a reminder) also includes all the minutes of our regular meetings. As the first tier of Government, we are obliged to operate within strict guidelines, but thankfully we have a very able Parish Clerk in Sue Blaxley, to keep us on the straight and narrow.

Devolution:

I forget now, just how many years ago the first mention of Cornwall Council devolving the carpark and toilet block to the Parish Council. But after some positive intervention and support from our Cornwall Councillor, we have finally reached the stage of engaging solicitors, and undertaking surveys. We are now very close to the final stage of the devolvement process when we can finally look forward to designing something useful for the village from the two defunct parts of the toilet! We will of course maintain and keep open the disabled toilet, especially now that we have a fancy new handwashing machine in place.

At the same time, and when we take ownership, we will also fulfil an existing commitment to resurface the southern end of the car park when the development of the Cormorant site is finally complete.

Cormorant Development:

As I mentioned in last year's report, we have maintained a close and healthy dialogue with the developer and builder for the Cormorant, and although not always achieving everything that we have wanted, it has nevertheless managed to get us within a couple of months of completion of the site. The target date remains as the end of July 2022. As you can imagine, this development has generated the greatest number of emails and 'phone calls (all of which we share with the developer) and by and large, individual issues have been handled sympathetically and with success. One of the upsides of this development, has been the introduction of ***superfast fibre broadband to the premises***, which will open up the village to faster internet speeds very shortly.

Car park Ticket Machine:

This year we will replace the car park ticketing machine and have already concluded our strategy to “go cashless.” There are many benefits from going down this route, but we recognised during the Pandemic, that cash was not favoured and many retail outlets preferred to deal in contactless transactions. And we believe that this trend will only continue in the future. However, we also know that to achieve this, we need a good enough ‘phone signal near to the machine. But we don’t have one! So, we are currently arranging with BT to install a Broadband router in the Boatwatch Hut which will deliver an ethernet connection to the new machine. We are very grateful to David Bonsall as Chair of Golant Boatwatch in finally getting the Post Office to award the building its own post code, which in turn will allow BT to recognise the building, as having an address!!

Parking:

To both create more spaces and to support the income stream from the car park, we took the decision earlier in the year to remove 4 of the Annual Rental spaces. As you can imagine, this was not good news for those Parishioners hoping to obtain or retain a rental space but given that an average space would be expected to generate around £500 per year, we did not feel we could justify the discount on those spaces by such a large amount going forward. The one remaining space was awarded to Paddle Cornwall on the proviso that they continue to “bus” their customers down into the village to alleviate some of the additional strain on parking. At the same time, we also rounded up our pricing structure to compensate for VAT charges on all our parking receipts. Meanwhile, we continue our dialogue with Quay Users about diagonal parking lines on the concrete strip in front of the pub to try and generate more parking opportunities. But realistically, we conclude that we will always have stress on parking at peak times.

Playground Project:

One result of the devolution process has been the need to contain our cash reserves for ‘yet’ unknown expenditure. Because this has taken an obvious priority, it has sadly pushed back our plans to re-generate the playground. We also discovered to our surprise that good quality playground installations (like those at Lanhydrock and Cardinham which we like) don’t come cheap and our initial design was priced at over £55,000 (excluding groundworks and safety flooring.) As a result, and to deliver something within acceptable financial parameters, we have embarked on a mission to secure funding from the Lottery or any other suitable sources, to assist in this important project, so that

we can put together a finished playground that the village can be proud of, for years to come.

Village Map:

When Sue Reardon re-discovered her original village map stored in the village hall, we were reminded just how valuable it had been and especially so to new people moving into the village and to the many delivery drivers. So, we asked Ian and Sarah Laughton to come up with a new version that would recognise all of the new properties and those with changes of names. I am pleased to report that the new village map is finished and will be available for viewing by the village green in a new display case on the day of the Jubilee picnic and individual a3 copies will be available (at no cost) from the pub, or the village hall.

Using the Cornwall Council web site:

As a final and a somewhat technical point.....I think it is worth stating, that we are not an “enforcing authority.” So although I receive a lot of emails or ‘phone calls about pot holes, damage to posts or signs, or mud on the road etc.....all of these items have to be reported via the Cornwall Council web site. There is no short cut. This is their system for both receiving, logging and then hopefully resolving the issues that **we** have and want **them** to put right. So please use the Cornwall Council web site to identify those issues that need attention:

[Report a problem with a road or pavement - Cornwall Council](#)

Thank you. Any questions?

David Jenkinson

Chairman St Sampson Parish Council