

2014-15 Chairman's Annual Report, SheviocK Parish Council

The Parish Councillors work very hard for the parish to ensure we keep the area smart, safe and that it continues to be a place where we all want to live. There have been the usual issues regarding planning and more importantly, the on-going concern over the number and size of lorries that travel through Craffhole, but generally, it has been a year of success.

Last year's report stated how astonished most residents were at the extent of the storm damage to the Quay at the harbour in Portwrinkle. At the time of writing that report we were rather despondent because it had been ruled that the first tranche of government funding to repair storm damage was limited to flood damage. Nevertheless, a large number of residents supported a quayside meeting in May with our MP, Sheryll Murray, when she agreed to lobby, on our behalf, central government for additional funds. Our Cornwall Councillor George Trubody then worked with Cornwall to submit a bid for repairs to small ports and with our MP's support the money duly appeared. It is a great demonstration of local power that our quayside meeting has been so successful and the harbour wall replaced and thanks are due also to both our MP and local councillor.

The opening of new footpaths has been seen as important to improve road safety and to join up the major villages within the parish. This initiative has resulted in the circular footpath from Tredis View in Craffhole and back to Carew Close, Craffhole; the path was formally opened by Sir Richard and Lady Mary on Easter Saturday. It is very heavily used and using existing footpaths and very lightly trafficked roads links to Portwrinkle, SheviocK and Tredis. The footpaths have been fully funded from grants obtained from SITA, The Cornwall Community Foundation, The Tamar Valley ANOB, Bake Saw Mill, George Trubody and those residents who sponsored a post and our thanks to all those concerned. This project demonstrated how combining the strengths of both the Parish Council and the Memorial Hall Management Committee enabled the funding to be achieved in a short time.

A further success during the year was the refurbishment of the telephone box in Craffhole and its change into a Tourist Information Centre. The idea was suggested by Margaret Bass. Since its opening on the 27th December, the number of local businesses and organisations that are advertising there have increased steadily and it is used on a frequent basis by visitors. It is hoped this will help to strengthen and sustain the local economy.

This year has also seen great improvements to the flower beds at Portwrinkle. Jean Wilkinson is leading this and is often working on the beds herself. She thoroughly deserves all our thanks for the work she has completed. The funds to help with the beds are coming from the Devolution Account and do not affect the Precept. Devolution has continued to be a success with local people involved with all aspects of the cleaning and repairs. The fund for any future costs associated with repairs to the car park surface, the ticket machine or the toilet building growing steadily and satisfactorily.

The Dog Warden has continued to operate and has had considerable success. He is now also employed to work in Maker with Rame Parish, at their expense, and SheviocK Parish Council has 1 hour per month of our Clerk paid for, and with generally much less than 1 hours work needed to service the agreement, is a benefit to us. Please ensure that councillors are made aware of any areas where dog fouling becomes a problem in this parish and we can arrange for him to change his surveillance routes.

The Neighbourhood Development Plan, NDP, is progressing and a well-attended consultation was held in the Memorial Hall, Craffhole on the 16th February, where current plans and ideas were presented and the

views of residents recorded. It is expected that the plan will be submitted and, we hope, approved to become a material planning consideration, in 2016. It is most important that the NDP is adopted because the current central government planning policy supports development proposals; only by having a Development Plan in place is it possible to argue effectively against proposals from developers to build large numbers of homes on the peninsula. With the NDP approved it will at least enable the parishes to manage development.

Parking in Portwrinkle has been an ongoing issue. Public meetings have been held and various options considered and a generally acceptable solution identified. Currently the solution is being designed and will be going out to public consultation shortly. If agreed, the scheme will significantly reduce the current clutter of parking signs, ensure parking cannot take place on stretches of the narrowest roads out of season and improve safety, particularly in Whitsand Bay View generally and specifically at its junction with Finnygook Lane.

Traffic through Crafhole, particularly the large and heavy lorries remains a challenge for the Parish Council. However, at the end of March we managed to organise a visit from the Cornwall Council Portfolio holder for Transport, Bert Biscoe. Again we were supported by a large number of residents at an open air public meeting by the Community Shop. Bert is now very aware of the issues and potential solutions; the Council and the NDP are recommending

- a by-pass at Antony that would remove all heavy vehicles from both Crafhole and from Antony and, as an interim
- a junction improvement at Antony so that lorries could enter the Peninsula through one village and exit through the other reducing the flow through Crafhole by potentially 50%.

We will continue to press the Transport portfolio holder for funding.

Planning has continued to be a great source of frustration to the Parish Council and also residents, many of whom have struggled to follow the machinations of Cornwall Planning. During the year our views have been misrepresented on the planning portal, attempts have been made to disenfranchise us from the consultation process, we are excluded from giving a local input to traffic management plans for new development and planning applications have been allowed back to Committee for 'a second bite at the cherry'. We may not be experts in planning but we do understand the principles of fair process.

The major negative for the year has been funding for a new play park and community area. After our first application was turned down, the working group has been improving the application based on comments from Cornwall Council and others. A second application has been produced and has just been submitted. However, in parallel with the application a 'Friends of the Park' group has been formed and they will help with the implementation of the park if this second application is successful. They will then be responsible for the management and further funding and development into the future. If the application is not successful then the Parish Council together with the 'Friends of the Park' group will seek funding separately and together as appropriate from a number of smaller funding organisations and develop the Play Park and Community Area on a stage by stage basis.

I cannot complete this year's annual report without recording my thanks on behalf of all the residents to the work undertaken by Alison Pepper before she had to retire on the grounds of ill health and Ray Skelly who retired because of pressure of business commitments. The Casual vacancies created have been filled by Jenny Bushrod and John Isaac; Jenny and John bring new skills to the council to further strengthen those of the existing team and make us even stronger to represent your views and continue to work for improvements in the Parish.

Chris Kennedy Chairman, 2014-15.