

## **Annual Report of St Sampson Parish Council:**

### **Devolution:**

This time last year I highlighted that we were in the process of engaging solicitors to assist in this long-awaited process, whereby Cornwall Council would DEVOLVE to us their assets in our Parish. Essentially that meant they would devolve the footprint of their land (the carpark) and any buildings contained upon said land, including the toilet block. This was finally achieved on the 7<sup>th</sup> of December 2023 and as promised, we then elected to re-surface the southern end of the carpark, which had been a long standing and contractual commitment.

### **Ticket Machine:**

You will probably have noticed that at about the same time, we were finally in a position to install our new cashless ticket machine, whereby all payments are received directly into our bank account. This was made somewhat easier as we had also gone onto DIGITAL BANKING. But this of course meant we had to install a router in the Boatwatch Hut to enable a signal big enough to run the machine. However, the upside is that the same router can also provide a signal for the existing CCTV installation and for the proposed village webcam.

### **Toilet Block:**

As you know, 2/3<sup>rd</sup> of the toilet block have been redundant for some considerable time now and we have been keen to “re purpose” that part of the building into something more useful for the village. Councillor David Johns sent out a Maurie Mail and the overwhelming response was in support of converting the building into a Kayak Store. Our Parish funds are really tiny when you consider what we have to spend to stay viable as a Parish Council, so we have elected at this stage to get underway on a “self-help” basis to avoid the potentially unaffordable costs of using architects and builders. However, we will still look at the possibility of available grants should the opportunity

arise in the future. Our thanks go to David Johns, Andrew and a team of fellow helpers for the immediate progress on this project.

### **Developments and Planning:**

Probably one of the topics that has exercised the village more than most other things, has been property development. On an individual basis, it is perfectly understandable why someone would want to improve or re-build a property, but the downside for us in the community is the “fallout” from such developments. Thankfully the Cormorant (the biggest of the developments) is finally completed, but we have then followed on with other developments that have created a need to seek “conditions” that can be applied to planning applications to achieve a better outcome for the village. In this regard, we did get very close to an agreed set of words and conditions, but ....we are still in a dialogue with our Cornwall Councillor (who has been very supportive of our position on this) and Cornwall Planning in finding an acceptable form of words that WE locally think will be effective.

### **Financial Support:**

I wanted to briefly touch on the sort of activities that we as a PC can and do support: We are enabled (by statute) to donate money to causes that we deem appropriate from our own (but very limited) community war chest. It amounts to £9 per person on the electoral roll in any one year....so not a lot! However, we do try and ensure that all requests are met as well as we are able, and have included things like:

The jubilee celebrations, the Jubilee trees, village hall broadband, electricity for the Boatwatch Hut, support for the Village webcam, the Christmas Fayre, the Heritage U turn post, the village map and the coronation celebrations.

### **Village Map:**

Can I just say a very big thank you to Ian and Sarah Laughton, for their work in producing the updated village map. Sue Reardon created the original and given the number of new people in the village we thought it a good idea to bring it up to date. We have subsequently received a small number of corrections that have now been applied to the map, which is now in a pdf format and available to anyone who goes onto either the village or the Parish Council web site,

courtesy of Debbie. And I will shortly get around to re-printing the large map by the village green.

### **Potholes and The Resurfacing of Water Lane:**

I have been led to believe that this work (along with other local schemes), has finally been scheduled for September. We do have to treat that date as a “possible” at this stage and I am waiting for a more detailed response from Highways. However, I can only conclude that this will “eventually” be good news, but I am also very conscious that it will involve a degree of disruption during the process, that we will all have to live with. It also happens to be the same time that Construction Marine Limited are planning to repair the sea walls along the Golant side of the river. As soon as I have a more detailed response from Highways, I will let you know. So meanwhile, we do need to keep reporting individual potholes which Highways are committed to repair.....eventually!

Meanwhile on a more positive note:

### **The Playground Appeal:**

As I have mentioned before, the sudden and almost unexpected arrival of Devolvment, required both our time and money to enact the process and it did cost our community many thousands of pounds. This meant that our project to upgrade the Playground had to be put back. Finding suitable grants has been unsuccessful, so and we are now at the starting point of our own Playground Appeal, led by Siobhan, to see how much we can generate. What we receive from whatever source, we will add to funds we can afford out of the PC coffers, to deliver something of high quality that our children and grandchildren will enjoy for years to come. We are underway already and have received several donations and some promises of funds from a variety of different sources with several organised events to raise even more.

Thank you and any questions?

