

## **Cornwall Councillor Nicky Chopak - Annual Parish Meeting Report 2024**

Another year has passed and I could suggest not much has changed in the world of Cornwall Council.

Examples of this are your Council Tax has risen by the same amount as last year of 4.99% , of which 2% goes to Adult Social Care, the increased budgetary pressure on the Council has continued with the need for cuts to statutory services such as highways, school transport, maintenance of schools and public buildings, the lack of affordable housing and the difficulties with access to GP and dental services and NHS appointments and care within A & E.

We now are in the midst of a cost of living crisis, with residents struggling with their energy, rent and food bills, with an increased reliance on benefits and voluntary groups such as the Foodbank – none of which we expected to be in in the 21st Century and more particularly having just survived a global pandemic.

Sadly, however, homelessness is now more common in our area, a symptom of the cost of living crisis and the lack of affordable and social housing. Developers are not rushing to help that situation, with open market housing being their priority, particularly in this area . Percentages that developers should be offering is ideally 40% plus, but they always seem to argue against this, which is disappointing. Other legislation is slowly being bought in with 100% loading on unoccupied properties and commercial waste and recycling bills being sent to holiday lets. The new waste and recycling contract is slowly rolling out across the county, and it won't be long before you will be the proud owner of a wheelie bin and food waste bin and then having to get used to fortnightly collections.

We will also be looking forward to a 20mph speed limit in some of our towns and villages. Following a successful practice run in Camelford, this will be rolled out over the next 18months once towns and villages are consulted. This is better than being assumed that 20mph was suitable for every location, so watch out for further information in your village.

Community Networks have been transformed into Community Area Partnerships, which in our case now includes Camelford. 26 parishes now have a joined up stronger

voice and I have the privilege of being the Vice Chair. We have very focused meetings and so far we have discussed Health and Housing which have been very informative and well attended. Our next meeting is 10<sup>th</sup> June and all are welcome. Look out for the agenda.

As part of the CAP, we have set up a specific Working Group to ensure the Health and Wellbeing of our residents is fully considered.

As you know we have serious issues around access to medical care and we are keen to make sure the NHS providers have North Cornwall on their radar. I was voted as Chair and am looking forward to working with those NHS partners, and fellow councillors. I will keep you posted.

My Community Chest of £3k has been well spent this year, from goalposts and memorial benches, to flags, planters and defibrillator signage. Hopefully I will be able to offer a similar budget this year and I will let you know.

My casework is as varied as ever, from potholes and drainage, to public toilets, highways, planning and issues around Adult Social Care, healthcare, schools and transport. Please do not hesitate to contact me and I will try my best to assist you.

I also want to give a shout out to all Parish Councillors and clerks who do a sterling job, sometimes in difficult circumstances.

I am always available via email on

[cllr.nicky.chopak@cornwall.gov.uk](mailto:cllr.nicky.chopak@cornwall.gov.uk)

Or leave me a message on 07810302061.