

**Councillor Martyn Alvey**  
**Cornwall Council Member for Feock and Playing Place**  
**Annual Report to Feock Parish Council – 7 May 2019**

I continue to enjoy being your Cornwall Councillor for what has been another busy 12 months. Hopefully I am seen by residents to be working hard in the interests of the community that I directly represent and strategically for the wider interests of Cornwall.

My role as a Cornwall Councillor broadly falls into three areas: Firstly, it's to represent the interests of my constituents, undertaking casework on their behalf and support the two Parish Councils within my Electoral Division. Casework can involve any of the myriad of issues for which residents are reliant on Cornwall Council, ranging from Social Housing and Social Care needs to Planning, Pot Holes and Waste Collection. However, from time to time I am also asked to advocate on matters important to residents outside the direct control of the Council, such as with South West Water, the Marine Management Organisation or The Environment Agency. In these instances, I have a close working relationship with Sarah Newton MP whose intervention can often carry more sway. I receive a small annual budget of £2000 (known as a Community Chest) which I can allocate to local groups or projects to enhance their facilities or kick-start community initiatives. In Feock Parish I was able to allocate some of my 2018/19 Community Chest towards the purchase of more new Christmas Lights for Carnon Downs, the Wellbeing Café, 2 x Summer events for young people run by the Cornwall Wildlife Trust on behalf of the Restronguet Creek Society and a grant to Carnon Downs Village Hall.

Since being elected, the majority of my casework locally continues to be planning related. Primarily the Parish Council and residents seeking support in objecting to planning applications or complaining that an individual has breached a planning condition or damaged protected trees. Whilst I have no authority to overturn a planning or enforcement decision, I often ask officers to review and reconsider their recommendations and can call planning matters before a committee of Cornwall Councillors to decide the application. We have had a good record of success with the Central Planning Committee and even where applications opposed by the Parish have eventually been passed, the intervention has at least reduced the adverse impact. I also participate in fighting the Planning Appeals, for example, the construction of 38 dwellings at the end of Valley Lane, Carnon Downs. It was pleasing to see this appeal fail and the weight of the Neighbourhood Plan come to the fore in the deliberations of the Planning Inspector.

The second role of a Councillor is more strategic and expects me to participate in the work of a number of Council Committees. I sit on the Neighbourhoods Overview and Scrutiny Committee, Central Planning Committee and the Standards Committee. I am also a member of the Shadow Cabinet, shadowing the Environment and Public Protection portfolio and represent the Council on two outside bodies – The Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty Partnership and as a trustee and Chairman of the Cornwall Community Flood Forum.

The third role of a Councillor is to have an overview of all work of the Council and participate and vote in those matters for which the whole Council has a collective decision-making responsibility such as the setting of the budget. However, it should be understood that many important matters are decided by the Cabinet of 10 Councillors made up from the Independent/Liberal Democrat coalition administration and as a Conservative, I am a member of the 'opposition'. Nonetheless, every Councillor can influence strategic policy, for example, I seconded the Motion that led to Cornwall Council declaring a 'Climate Emergency' earlier this year.

I continue to maintain a 100% attendance record and look forward to another 12 months representing the residents of Feock and Playing Place at County Hall.