

Mary Tavy Parish Council

We have received complaints from parishioners about the short notice given for the “Drop In” event organised by the DNPA relating to the creation of the new Dartmoor Local Plan. Sadly, MTPC was only given 4 days’ notice of this meeting and we simply did the best we could to alert the community under these circumstances. The importance of the new Local Plan should be appreciated by all parishioners as it will be made up of a range of policies which will control the future development of all the Dartmoor communities including our own. All parishioners who hold concerns or opinions over how our community could or should change in the next 10~15 years should make their comments known to the DNPA by the 16th December 2016. Full details can be found on www.dartmoor.go.uk/localplan. The DNPA’s fact finding process includes a Land Availability Assessment which asks local land owners to submit land within their parish for consideration for future development. A previous Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment review in 2014 considered 5 sites put forward in Mary Tavy of which 2 were considered suitable. We are assured that this is a technical exercise and does not imply a Grant of Planning Permission will automatically be given. However, the very existence of such information can have a negative effect on property values when it becomes public knowledge.

Early November is always a busy time for our Parish. Once again, the Trustees of the Mary Tavy Jubilee Group and Mary Tavy Victory Memorial Recreation Ground held a very successful Bonfire Night Celebration on Sunday 6th. The attraction of a large traditional bonfire was complemented by the availability of a wide range of eagerly sought after food and beverages together with a spectacular fireworks display to round off the evening. Attendance by both parishioners and visitors was better than ever and this level of success is of course due to a great deal of hard work on the part of the organisers and their assistants. All profits are used to fund the activities of the Jubilee Group and to maintain our large Recreation Ground. I am certain all parishioners will wish to join me in a sincere vote of thanks to all concerned.

We were of course fortunate to have good weather for the 6th and for the 13th which was Remembrance Sunday. This year I had the privilege of laying the wreath on the war memorial on behalf of all parishioners and I was deeply impressed by the attendance of over 100 parishioners at this ceremony. The carefully timed proceedings, led by the Rector of Mary Tavy, the Reverend John Higman, were greatly enhanced by the stopping and silencing of traffic on the A386. This duty was carried out by P.C. Chris Higham, a local resident (for those who hadn’t guessed, he is the husband of Kerri Higham, our Parish Clerk) who volunteered his services despite being on leave. Once again on behalf of the parish, sincere thanks to all those who contributed to the smooth running of this important event.

Early November also saw a further attempt by BT to remove 2 of the 3 red public telephone boxes from within our village on the grounds of lack of use. MTPC has of course made a strong case for their retention as we believe that their continued presence in a fully operational condition strongly underpins the important Emergency Plan created for this community. Emergency lines of communication are particularly vital in rural Britain where mobile phone coverage is less than certain. Our carefully argued case for retention should be sufficient under the guidelines published by Ofcom for such matters.

Councillors have sympathy for residents who live beside the A386 (classified as a National Primary Route) and who regularly have to contend with motorists exceeding the speed limit and otherwise driving without “due care and attention.” We also truly know how difficult it is to persuade DCC Highways Dept. to implement further safety measures. This ongoing problem together with other road safety issues are kept under constant review and we are currently waiting for DCC Highways to complete a statistical analysis after they made unannounced changes to the central white line system in part of the village. Once this is in place we will seek a full meeting with a senior officer to determine what changes and improvements are possible.

Councillor Peter Jarvis ~ Chairman, Mary Tavy Parish Council