

Mary Tavy Parish Council

Councillors are pleased to report that the first of our planned improvements to the provision of emergency equipment within the Parish has been successfully completed. A Public Access Heart Defibrillator in its easy to open cabinet has been fitted to the front wall of Mary Tavy Post Office and Stores and is now fully operational. This appliance is battery powered and is light weight and easy to carry. It is also semi-automatic in operation and gives voice prompts and visual indicators to ensure that use is as straight forward as possible. We are of course deeply grateful to Martin and Tracy Bradford the owners of the premises for not only giving consent for the installation but in agreeing to monitor and record its operational condition.

The second improvement is the creation of a Community Night Landing Site on the Recreation Ground for use by the Devon Air Ambulance. A formal Planning Application has been deposited with the DNPA and we hope that it will be swiftly processed by them using "delegated powers." We firmly believe that such a facility must surely enjoy universal support as the speedy arrival of an air ambulance could so easily be the difference between life and death for a seriously ill parishioner.

With regard to the erection of steel masts, by complete coincidence, the Parish Council has been asked to consider an application for the erection of a 15m telecommunication mast on farmland approximately 500m from our Primary School. Such a development under the terms of the Town & Country Planning Act is classified as "permitted development" and has been lodged with the DNPA on behalf of Telefonica (UK) Ltd. and Vodafone. The mast is designed to carry 3 antennae and 2 dish arrays. There is of course very limited scope for comment by anyone under "permitted development" regulations. Equally it is also unclear how much mobile phone signal coverage will be improved in Mary Tavy by this development.

All of these changes and improvements together with a slowly improving Superfast Broadband provision will improve the basic infrastructure of our community. To complement these changes MTPC will conduct a formal review of the Local Emergency Plan. Unfortunately, while "community resilience" is highly desirable, the creation and updating of Emergency Plans are renowned for absorbing a great deal of time and effort. We shall, of course, do all that we can to complete this work as quickly as possible but as MTPC does not run at anything like full strength it may take far longer than we would like.

A very successful Annual Parish Meeting was held on the 18th April in the Coronation Hall. The new "Drop-In" format proved a great success and the atmosphere during the meeting was relaxed and positive. We were all pleased to meet those parishioners who chose to attend and to listen to their comments, concerns and problems. I have been asked to point out that parishioners may bring important issues to the attention of the Council at any time and immediately prior to our monthly public meeting the Council allows a short time period for parishioners to speak to the assembled Council. Councillors and Clerk are always ready to listen to reports from the public and often action is taken immediately and progress reported back at the following monthly meeting.

The election of County Councillors to serve on Devon County Council took place on the 4th May. It probably came as a surprise to most parishioners to find that we are now part of the Yelverton Rural Division instead of Okehampton Rural. The successful candidate was Councillor Philip Sanders who has already served the Yelverton Division for 8 years. He is also the Leader of WDBC and a member of the DNPA. We look forward to welcoming him to Mary Tavy Parish, a new addition to his division, in the near future.

The May meeting of MTPC was also the occasion of our Annual General Meeting during which time Officers for the coming year were appointed. The Chairman of MTPC for the year 2017 / 18 is Councillor John Hill and I am certain he will be a very positive force in further improving the work of your Parish Council.

Councillor Peter Jarvis ~ Vice-Chairman, Mary Tavy Parish Council