

## REPORTS – APRIL 2018

### County Councillor Alistair Dewhirst

Good evening.

The 1<sup>st</sup> April was the start of the new Financial Year – as a consequence I thought you might like to know where my Locality Budget has gone to.

My County Locality Budget included £190 towards footpaths in Coffinswell, £500 towards Buckland's highly successful Ladies football team, £500 towards computers at Abbotskerswell PTFA, £400 to Abbotskerswell Cricket Club, £500 towards balustrading at Combeingteignhead Village Hall, a further £1,000 towards Ipplepen's new school gym, £485 towards village roads signs for the ICC, £1,100 towards planning costs at the Ipplepen Hub, £250 towards Kingskerswell Fete, £200 towards Kingskerswell Community Directory, £400 towards laptops for Kingskerswell Coding Club, £2,000 towards lighting for Kingskerswell Village Hall, £321 to Kingskerswell Conservation Society for a tree popper, £150 towards the new Navigators Youth Club, £500 towards the new Shaldon Changing Rooms, £450 towards the Shaldon Festival, £258 for table tennis tables in Stokeinteignhead and £250 towards the canopy on the Stokeinteignhead Community Shop. The 2018/19 budget remains at £10,000.

Vulnerable and fuel poor residents across Devon are being encouraged to apply to Cosy Devon and the Local Energy Advice Programme (LEAP). This is a free advice service supported by Devon County Council and funded by energy suppliers that helps households with energy saving measures and could reduce their energy bills by up to £300 a year.

They can install a range of simple measures, provide energy efficiency advice and help look for a better deal on energy bills. These can include draught-proofing, low energy LED lightbulbs, radiator panels and shower savers. The advisor will also check if your house has uninsulated cavity walls or an uninsulated loft. If so, it may be possible to arrange for insulation to be installed for free. If your home has a boiler that's very old and doesn't meet current standards, they may also be able to help you repair or replace it.

Your energy tariff will be checked and, if you are not on the best tariff, the advisor will help you to change to a cheaper one. On average, a household can save £287 a year by switching their heating and electricity supply to the cheapest tariff.

The British Horse Society has released figures highlighting a rise in incidents between horses and vehicles in Devon. Between the 2016 and 2018, incidents in Devon rose from 7 to 17, the highest figure in the South West.

There are 1.3 million regular riders in the UK, and in total 230 horses and 39 riders have been killed since 2010. Drivers are urged to be aware of the four messages to minimise the risk of accidents when they see a horse on the road:

Slow down to a maximum of 15mph

Be patient – do not sound your horn or rev the engine

Overtake only when it is safe to do so, leaving at least a car's width between the vehicle and the horse

Drive away smoothly

The safety of all those who use Devon's roads is paramount, and I hope drivers will take these messages on board to help limit the number of incidents involving horses on our roads.

I would like to thank highways and social care teams across our Division for their round-the-clock efforts to keep this Division moving and ensure that the vulnerable received the support they needed.

Despite the challenging conditions, care providers, aided by volunteer 4 x 4 drivers in some locations, and joint health and social care teams continued their support to vulnerable residents. And highways teams worked non-stop to clear routes as quickly as possible, using approximately 7,000 tonnes of salt during the first three weeks of March. It was a good job we got another shipment of grit between the two weather events.

So far this winter over 21,000 tonnes of salt has been used on our roads – this compares with 9,000 tonnes used throughout the whole winter season last year.

Initial estimates suggest these two snow events may have cost around £1.2 million to deal with.

Praise must also go to volunteers, such as 4x4 drivers and our fantastic snow wardens for the role they've played, as well as our local communities that rallied together, during this time.

### **Neighbourhood Watch Report- Cllr Bernard Stanley**

Several emails from D&C police regarding scams again this month

They range from a friend who is in trouble and needs money for bail or hospital treatment, fraud at your bank, transfer your money to another account for 'safekeeping', money needed to act as 'bait' in an ongoing police investigation, buying and selling online also happy scamming ground, caller pretends to be a bailiff enforcing a court order against you for failure to pay an advertising fee or similar., holidays non existant air tickets and accommodation.

Calls are often threatening and usually try to make you act immediately.

Police advice is –

Don't assume anything is genuine, there have been scams which appear to be genuine PayPal transactions but turn out not to be.

Don't be rushed into anything, give yourself time to think.

Use your common sense, if something seems too good to be true it's probably a scam.

Put the phone down, make sure you have a dialling tone then call 101 and ask for advice or report direct to Action Fraud website.

Don't do online or telephone surveys they are used to target nuisance calls and scams.

Some of you may already have been scammed, if so you are then placed on a 'Sucker List'. The list is sold to other scammers and you are likely to receive many times more calls/emails because of this, 101 for advice.

Local knowledge is often important, if you see something suspicious contact 101 immediately with the information.

If you would like the police emails passed direct to you please give me your email address and I'll add you to the list.