

## REPORTS – MARCH 2019

### County Councillor Alistair Dewhurst

Good evening.

Devon County Council's Leader, John Hart, has reacted angrily to the latest funding announcements from Government designed to provide support post-Brexit.

The Stronger Towns Fund only allocated £33m to the South West region and, having learnt yesterday that Eurotunnel has also been allocated £33m in an out-of-court settlement – deal or no deal – leaders are strongly expressing their concern to Government about the message this sends to 5.6 million residents and businesses in the South West.

Clr Hart, Leader, Devon County Council and Chair, South West Councils, said: "Yet again the South West is the poor relation to the rest of the country. To only receive £33m – the same as Eurotunnel – from the Government pot of post-Brexit funding is bordering on insulting. That the Government can compare the needs of people and businesses in the South West with those of Eurotunnel beggar's belief. No consultation or communication took place with our councils prior to the funding announcement and we are bitterly disappointed that the needs of the people of the South West are being ignored.

"Despite this lack of support and recognition from Government, Devon County are doing all we can to prepare for Brexit. Work is taking place across Devon County Council and the region to prepare contingency plans for possible outcomes, to support communities and businesses. The clock is ticking on Brexit. We have consistently called on the Government to listen to the concerns of the people of the South West but so far there is little evidence that our voice has been heard, and time is running out. On behalf of the South West I call on the Government to listen, to engage and to respond."

Something that has concerned residents here have been the poor state of the pavements in Queen Street in Newton Abbot so I am pleased that overnight work will be carried out to resurface pavements. The scheme, which got underway last Monday, will be carried out on weekday evenings between 6pm and midnight. The footpaths will be open as usual during the day. The work will start at the western end of Queen Street, and it is expected to take three weeks to complete.

The sections being resurfaced are:

- East side of Courtenay Street from Victoria Place to junction with Queen Street.
- North side of Queen Street from Courtenay Street to junction with Albany Street

At the end of the Budget process at County Council it was agreed that overall, the county's spending on services will rise from £479.4 million to almost £494 million. It will be paid for by an increase of 3.99% in council tax. That's £53.10 extra on an average Band D council tax bill. It will take the annual Band D charge for Devon's services to £1,384.29. The rise encompasses a 2.99% increase for general services and an extra one per cent dedicated solely to adult social care.

Finally, at a time of Budgets I would like to report that under my Locality Budget I disbursed

£900.00 Abbotskerswell PTA IT Project  
£300.00 Buckland Football Club Nets  
£100.00 Abbotskerswell Cricket Club  
£135.00 Chairs for Hearn Field Pavilion in Haccombe-with-Combe  
£370.00 Combeinteignhead Village Hall revitalisation  
£500.00 St Andrews PCC, Ipplepen – Clock repair  
£1,000.00 Ipplepen Community Hub rebuilding fund for Architectural services  
£1,000.00 Kerswella Care  
£1,750.00 Kingskerswell Community Centre Windows  
£200.00 Kingskerswell Action Group for planting materials  
£1,000.00 Play Equipment at King George VI playing field Shaldon  
£100.00 Shaldon Singers for programme printing

£200.00 WW1 Commemoration in Stokeinteignhead  
£160.00 Xmas lights & electrical connection in Stokeinteignhead  
£750.00 Teignmouth Pavillions  
£750.00 CAB Catch Project  
£911.00 Teign CVS - Tablets  
£40.00 Crowdfunding - Lost Words in Devon

#### **District Councillor Chris Clarence**

Cllr Clarence reported on the recent budget meeting at TDC. A 3.03% increase on council tax was agreed. Of the full bill sent to residents, TDC keep 9%. He feels that this represents good value for money considering the services provided including planning and waste collections to name two.

#### **Police Report – Sgt John Ross**

The official report is attached. That said the information provided is quite bland and I feel that the councillors will feel it is less personal so I will try to add value.

**The one crime in Stokeinteignhead relates to a domestic assault**, so the greater community will not need to fear.

The nice this that the report does add is the comparison to last year, level pegging on basic figures.

All in all we live in a safe area of the country, significantly less troubled by the violence experienced even by our closer towns and cities, so we can sleep safe in our beds, but I would still always recommend strict attention to our household security and vigilance.

At the same three day meeting I attended last week we did also receive an input on Rural crime.

Theft from Farms, theft of and cruelty to animals and livestock. We have a Constabulary wide rural crime task force who are keen to make sure all such crimes are recorded, evidence in such crimes is always going to be hard to locate and even harder to progress, but if we are not made aware of such offences occurring we will not even be aware that there is a problem.

Outside of Devon there have been large scale thefts of livestock which is very worrying as the offenders will not be conforming to Health and Safety, Trading Standards and Animal Welfare legislation, these meat product will find their way into our food chain.

Commercial poaching has also been noticed (Cumbria) where deer were trapped and butchered hung from trees whilst still alive? To reduce the risk of shots being heard and reported, appalling!

Also large farming machinery (Kent) is being stolen and immediately exported over the Chanel often weeks before the thefts are even reported to the police. Making effective investigation next to impossible.

No such offences locally but always pays to be prepared.

On a personal note, my broken ankle will take at least six weeks before I can drive, so I am limited to getting lifts into work from my wife and colleagues. It will be some time before I am likely to grace the council meetings.

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

Quiet month for 'new' scams although several reports of scam calls and contacts locally.

Carol passed on details of a very plausible online banking scam, caller claims to have made a genuine mistake with online banking because their number is just one digit different to yours, he claims he needs your PIN to correct it. They then change your bank details and gain access to your account.

Worth making the point that these people are very convincing, for them it's not a crime it's a business, they are well trained as well as being well equipped. Please be very careful not to get caught out.

### **Village Hall Report – Cllr Dot Simmons**

The treasurer is now setting out the monthly accounts in a new layout to give a comparison of 2 years month per month profit as recommended by ACRE.

All is going well with regards to groups clearing up after functions.

Flooding at back of hall is now remedied and a plastic speed bump is to be purchased and installed at the hall entrance to try to keep gravel in and off Stoke Road.

Smooth running of the bar was discussed with intentions of hiring qualified bar people to run it.

A list of ideas for fund raising were discussed and to be looked into in greater detail

Beatings of the Bounds, Nature Club and Cyber Security event were all discussed.

Date of Next Meeting is Tuesday 2nd April 2019 7pm

### **Twinnings' Report – Cllr Dot Simmons**

Our last fund raiser before the visit of the Trevieres Twinning Society was the annual quiz.

We were very well supported again by members of the parish and we wish to thank all those who took part.

Also, we had a group of nine folk from Teignmouth who represented past and active members of the Teignmouth Twinning Association. It was very pleasing to welcome them here and feedback has been very good praising all aspects of the evening including our very special Village Hall.

So now we turn our attention to finalising plans to make our French friends feel welcome in our Village.

Their arrival at the Church House Inn Thursday 25 Th. April early evening.

Friday after a day in Exeter we will be having a typically English Roast Dinner in The Church House Inn.

On Saturday it will be our form of Civic Reception as they have in France for us. The school choir have agreed to sing for them which is great news. All parish groups are welcome to attend, to enjoy the refreshments and get to mingle with our visitors.

The reception will be held from 11 to 12 noon.

In the evening, if there is a strong smell of fish'n'chips in the village it will be us feasting on delights from the local fish'n'chip van!!

More details to follow next meeting. Do get in touch if you want to join this small but enthusiastic, enterprising group of which at the moment I am proud to be the chairman or, as they say in France, le président!