

## **REPORTS – OCTOBER 2017**

### **County Councillor Stuart Barker**

#### **School Funding**

As you know we have been campaigning to increase the share of the education budget that Devon receives. Whilst the increase is welcome it still does not fully represent fairer funding which we continue to campaign and lobby for. From a position of losing money a few months ago we now have increases and a one off payment to every school. The result for Devon means that over the last three years we will have had a £23.5m increase in school funding. We are still below the National Average so the campaigning for fairer funding will go on.

The latest increase when divided by the number of pupils in Devon averages out at an extra amount per pupil of over £80 – the final allocation will be as outlined below. In addition to this there will be a one off lump sum for each school but we don't yet know the details.

The data released on 14th September 2017 provides the schools notional allocations under the National Funding Formula that have been aggregated to calculate the allocation the LA will receive for 2018-19. However, in 2018-19 the LA will continue to determine the final funding allocations for schools through a local formula that will be agreed by consultation with Devon Schools, they will be meeting in November to look at the allocations, this may see variations from the national funding allocations. The LA will also have the ability to have a local formula for 2019-20 with the 'Hard' national funding formula coming in to place in 2020-21.

We also anticipate an additional £300K in funding for High Needs which, whilst welcome, does not reflect the additional demands placed on this budget.

#### **Highways**

The highway engineer has now put the speed checks onto the list Scott will need to find adjacent street furniture with an electric supply and they will be done as soon as the equipment becomes available. It is currently allocated in turn to parish councils who have requested checks. At the moment I don't have information about timing.

The request about parking and the obstruction of the bus has been looked at – the solution would be yellow lines which the PC may wish to discuss.

I understand the costing for resurfacing the parking area has been sent – please let me know if not. My predecessor had an email from highways in September last year about the proposed parking verge area adjacent to Lower Well, highways don't have an objection to the work but the email requested details of the specification and the traffic management procedures that would be in place. It seems this email wasn't sent on to the PC however Rachel and Scott have sorted this out and Highways will get your quote from Thulborn which should answer the questions.

### **District Councillor Dennis Smith**

#### **Full Council**

At Full Council members voted unanimously in favour of the investment package for improvements to Market Walk. The recommendations were: -

(a) approve the investment in Market Walk Shopping Centre.

(b) Delegate authority to the business manager for Economy and Assets to confirm the final seating and lighting scheme for the centre.

(c) Approve the removal of the central market square kiosks.

Given the support of the members and due to retailer trading requirements, it is intended that the shop front improvement works commence in February 2018 with the intention of completion occurring by Summer. Full details are available on the council's website but there have been two well visited consultation events that were broadly supportive of the proposals.

This meeting also resolved to: -

(a) Approve the 2016/17 Statement of Accounts including the Annual Governance Statement and letter of representation as recommended by the Audit Scrutiny Committee subject to any final adjustments agreed with the external auditors to be reported to Council; and

(b) Note the Treasury Management results for 2016/17

(c) Note the Audit Findings Report from Grant Thornton and approve the actions arising from the action plan.

A recommendation that the Council resolve to update existing Coastal Byelaws to enhance safety for beach users and better manage access by leisure and commercial craft affecting Shaldon, Teignmouth. Dawlish and Dawlish Warren was also approved.

Funding proposals relating to Market Walk were also approved as was the necessary financing of the purchase of Strategic Alternative Natural Green Space relating to development South West of Exeter.