

## **REPORTS – SEPTEMBER 2017**

### **County Councillor Stuart Barker**

#### **Broadband**

We have announced the first tranche of areas to benefit from the availability of a Gigaclear service. The roll out is going to start adjacent to where Gigaclear already have provision because they will need to establish new cabinets which need cabling. The programme will take two years to deliver. There is no current news on the local provision but i am making efforts to persuade gigaclear to create a provisional roll out schedule so people can know where they are in the two year programme.

#### **Highways**

Having established the location of the speed checks I have no further information and am waiting for an update because there is a waiting list for the equipment.

The flooding issue I was asked to look at has been examined by highways who have checked the grids and the water ditch are clear and working. They haven't yet decided whether the direction of the water from the grids needs to be reversed so it goes into main drain in the highway. Such work is for the capital programme which was decided for the current year in February so I am looking to have the works in the list for the next programme.

I have been asked to look at how the community shop can be accommodated next year during their refurbishment, DCC have no objection to using the school but have confirmed it is a decision for the local governors and they will support their decision.

DCC will have the health and safety officer consider if there are issues in that area that need to be considered.

Members will have heard the news today that additional funding is coming to schools, the Leader of DCC has been in Westminster this week to ensure the case for Devon has been heard. We don't have confirmed information but the initial number crunching indicates that no school will be worse off and most will benefit.

Trading Standards are running a campaign to make people aware of the risks associated with emails and opening attachments they weren't expecting. As part of the campaign we have been holding sessions with citizens advice so they are aware of the risk areas and how to help people who think they may be affected.

### **District Councillor Dennis Smith**

At Overview and Scrutiny on Monday 11<sup>th</sup> September members were given an insight into the setting up of a wholly council owned housing company. This came in the form of a presentation from the housing lead of Mendip District Council – a District in Somerset not too dissimilar to Teignbridge. Their purpose is somewhat different to ours as their council has decided to go for a profit-making scheme in order to continue providing services once the Government Revenue Support Grant ceases in 2020, whereas in Teignbridge we are looking more towards trying to bridge the ever-widening gap in social housing provision.

## **Emergency Planning**

We were also given an insight into emergency planning from our lead officer David Eaton. At present six districts plus Torbay Unitary are about to sign up to a modified plan that will bring more cohesion going forward.

## **Ten Year 2016 – 2025 Strategy**

We were also given a report on the first quarter performance indicators for the Teignbridge ten which showed that all of the ten headings are on target with many of the individual section performance indicators showing above target. There were forty two pages in the document so I don't propose to go through them here but the detail is available on the council's website.

## **Recycling Performance**

Teignbridge again delivered an improved recycling rate in 2016/17 at 55.7% - an increase of 1.4% on the previous year. This placed us as the highest recycling local authority in Devon according to draft figures – final regional and national figures will not be available until November.

## **Potential Market Walk Improvements**

Finally we were also given an update on proposals for improvements to the centre of Newton Abbot. These were only first phase proposals and there is a long way to go before they can be brought to fruition. Unfortunately the fact that details have been leaked to the press has weakened our bargaining position with some of our current tenants so it remains to be seen whether that position can be recovered.