

## Appendix A County Councillor Report for Full Council : - Tuesday 13<sup>TH</sup> February 2024

### My report for the Parish Council is as follows:

- The big (only!) item on the County Council agenda in the last 6 weeks has been the budget. This has almost been agreed for the County Council for the next financial year (formal agreement will take place on 21/02/2024). Things are extremely tight, with the settlement from central government disappointing to senior officers. Leader of the Council Mark Hawthorne (Conservative, Quedgeley) added his name to a letter sent by the County Councillor's Network (CCN) writing to the chancellor of the exchequer asking for reconsideration with the settlement, but there was no change of heart.
- Although the County Council will not see huge cut backs in front line services next year, this is due to two major financial considerations: one, taking a further £5,000,000 out of reserves (as they did last year) – clearly not a sustainable solution and; two, the increased income from the generator off Jct 12. The increased energy costs means it has over performed in the past 18 months, but this is not likely to last as energy prices fall
- I led the Liberal Democrat group to make minor amendments to the budget which we accept the Conservative administration to agree to: some additional funding for Public Rights of Way, freezing on-road parking charges, some additional money for flood alleviation and road safety, and money to support a specific bus route in the south of the County which is under threat
- In terms of local work, I continue to take on case work supporting parents/carers who children are not receiving the appropriate school places. I am currently supporting two parents in such cases
- I also continue to work with the designers and engineers of the cycle path. I met them late in January and the following was discussed:
  - works on the route (apart from the Pirton Corner section) should be finished end of March, at which point traffic lights will be put back at the H&H junction
  - bus stop shelters have been ordered but been delayed, should be in place by the summer
  - the Pirton Corner junction will NOT be completed by March, but should be started before the summer
  - the right hand lane onto Pirton Lane from Chelt Road will NOT be closed for 20 weeks. It is hoped it won't be closed at all, but if it is the closure will be for short period. I have requested IF this is needed it's closed schools holidays or over night - they hope it won't be necessary at all
- I was delighted to receive an application from the Parish Council to my Councillors Covid recovery fund, and have processed that so it currently sits with the administrators at Shire Hall. I expect a positive result from that in the very near future
- I have recently received two emails regarding parking and traffic around Sunday mornings at CHRFC. I am a bit biased on this as used to receive complaints when I was involved with Churchdown Panthers, and this always annoyed me – surely we should be celebrating the huge numbers of children and young people taking part in local sport and the wonderful volunteers and clubs that facilitate that? However, I do understand that it is annoying and disruptive for people nearby so will reach out to the rugby club to see if they can mitigate this in anyway