

Radway Parish Council 9th November 2017

County Councillor's Report

County Council Activities – The County Council continues to be fairly quiet as budgetary constraints and unknowns continue to influence both capacity (including staff numbers) and innovation. The full council agenda included such items as Corporate Parenting Policy; Strategic Plan for Youth Justice Service, Health and Well-Being Board Annual Review; Improvement to Europa Way using Warwick District Council S106 money and Government grant via the Coventry Warwickshire LEP.

Administration – Changes in the Adult and Children's Directorate have been the return of Nigel Minns to be the new Director and Chris Malone to be the permanent Head of Education. Ms Malone fills a much-needed post at a time when education is going through so many changes with the continued introduction of Academies and a new funding formula. We still await confirmation of the financial grant from the government for next year's budget. The pressures associated with Adult Care and integrated Health Care have not subsided and will still play a significant part in our budget deliberations.

Children's Centres – The Consultation has now ended and the responses are being analysed with changes being made to the final proposals. There have been over 2,000 responses as well as many on line comments. As expected there are many conflicting proposals depending on where the respondent lives and whether they use the Children's Centres. Whatever the final decision taken by the Cabinet it will only form part of the all-round review of Children's Services that is so badly needed. Another Consultation finished on 2nd November on Home to School Transport where some changes to the arrangements are being implemented..

Boundary Reviews - There has been much confusion about the current steps that are being taken in Parliament to reduce the number of MPs from 650 to 600. It appears that the present constituency of Kenilworth and Southam could disappear if the proposals are accepted and be realigned with Stratford. If this realignment occurs Radway would have a new MP from Stratford-on-Avon. The composition for the new Constituency is a numerical compilation, not geographical.

This realignment of constituencies does not affect either the County or District boundaries and Radway will still be part of the newly-formed Kineton & Red Horse Division at the County Council.

Community Forums – The debate continues over the future of the Community Forums and what value they add in their role in keeping the County Council informed of local aspirations.

Warwickshire Unauthorised Encampments Protocol – The County Council has adopted the Warwickshire protocol 2017 as the Council's overarching approach to managing unauthorised gypsy and traveler encampments. The current shared protocol for managing these sites known as 'firm but fair' was agreed in 2007 and has been used ever since. Following numerous unauthorised encampments it was considered the protocol was in need of revision and updating. The new protocol aimed at ensuring that the response to unauthorised encampments is treated in a cohesive, consistent, efficient and effective manner. This document will provide clear guidance when unauthorised encampments occur.

Cllr Chris Williams
Member for Kineton & Red Horse Division - WCC
05.11.2017