**Axminster Division – September/October 2019**

**Highways**

Let’s start with resident’s favourite subject of potholes. I am pleased to report that recorded numbers this year are down from last year and are below the monthly average since 2016, heading in the right direction.

August 2019 was 1826, September 2019 month to date 1910,

2016 figures for comparison, 3872 and, 2150

2017 figures for comparison, 3320 and, 2760

2018 figures for comparison 4384, 3312

In short well down on previous years.

As the nights begin to draw in final preparations are being made for winter, with delivery of 8500 tonnes of salt due in the next few weeks to ensure by early October the salt barns are fully stocked at 23,500 tonnes. The glitters and snow blowers are all serviced and ready for action, but as always I am hoping they won’t be called upon for use.

DCC Highways has been considering carbon reduction and have been using in a number of locations ‘warm asphalt’, which provides an approximate 7.5 % carbon reduction over hot lay. This technology is beginning to move forward, and we now have two plants in Devon that are capable of supplying material.

This year’s surface dressing programme is now complete and consisted of approximately 1.06 million sqm and delivered by Kiely Bros Ltd. The programme commenced on 8 April 2019 and was divided into three main phases to maximise programme efficiency, network demand and client/contractor expectation.

The “Doing What Matters” trial work on asset management continues in Okehampton, with the work and approach methods being used proving very effective. Work has also started on safety defects elsewhere, after the success of the triage “Doing What Matters” on publicly reported potholes using the DCC “Report a Problem web site.

**Adult Social care and Health Services**

Spending Review

In the September [Spending Review](https://www.gov.uk/government/news/spending-round-2019-what-you-need-to-know)  the Chancellor announced an extra £1.5 billion extra for social care. This breaks down as £1 billion in grants and a further £0.5 billion would come in the form of powers to raise 2% from Council Tax as a Social Care Precept. Depending on the distribution formula used for the grant element, Devon can expect around £15 million with the possibility of a further £7 million potential raised through a Social Care Precept.

Long Term Care Plan for Devon

The engagement activity of the summer has now come to an end and officers are now analysis the findings and what this might mean for the development of the Devon Long Term Plan.

The Adult Health and Care Scrutiny Committee is hosting a Long Term Plan session on 18 October which will provide further opportunities to help to develop the Long term Plan for Devon.

Primary Care Networks

31 Primary Care Networks have just been set-up across Devon. GP practices have worked with social care, the voluntary and community sector and across the wider NHS family for many years. The development of PCNs further supports this and also supports GP practices to work together across multiple communities.

Over the next three years it is anticipated that each PCN will contain a team consisting of pharmacists, social prescribing link workers, physiotherapists, physicians and paramedics and offer services and support that has been traditionally provided in hospitals. PCNs will also be working to provide enhanced care within care homes.

Proud to care staff recruitment campaign

Proud to Care Devon will be running a further marketing recruitment [campaign](https://www.proudtocaredevon.org.uk/properproud/) to support the recruitment of care workers in Devon from September – December. This

Winter Pressures

Work is underway to allocate the winter pressures grant money of £3.6M. It is allocated to each locality and used to fund specific projects.

Children’s Services and Schools

We have 771 children in care, and pressure remains high on the system. The availability of placements and the right sort of placement is a continuing challenge. Foster Carer recruitment has improved. Over the last two years we have recruited 50 new Foster Families and lost no Foster Carers following our re-structuring of allowances..

**School Funding**

Following many months of campaigning by Parents, Schools, Local Authorities and F40, government announced a three-year settlement for education: -

The school’s budget will rise by £2.6 billion in 2020-21, £4.8 billion in 2021-22 and £7.1 billion in 2022-23, compared to 2019-20 funding levels.

Per pupil funding to rise, at least in line with inflation to a minimum of £3750 for primary schools and £5,000 for secondary schools, including Devon

£700m more funding to support children with Special Educational Needs

£400m for FE provision including £190m to increase core funding for 16-19-year olds and £210m for target interventions such as English and Maths re-sits, T levels, the Advanced Maths Premium and workforce investments

There is clearly political uncertainty at the moment, but these announcements are a good baseline for next year, whatever happens.