

Axminster Division Report, 3rd February 2020

DCC Cllr Ian Hall

Police Advocate Scheme Meeting Friday 28th February @7pm for Parish Councils in the Axminster Division

Police Community Liaison Meeting

Date: Friday February 28th 2020

Time: 19:00 – 21:30

Venue: All Saints Village Hall, Nr Axminster EX13 7LX

A little reminder: I have arranged an evening meeting for all Parish & Town Cllrs/District Cllrs/County Cllrs/Clerks & Invited stakeholders on Friday 28th February.

The purpose of the meeting is to engage and look at best practice for our Rural Area.

I hope as many Cllrs from all the Seven Parishes can attend and will hopefully consider signing up to the Police Advocate Scheme.

Police & Crime Commissioner – Alison Hernandez and Inspector Groves from 'Rural East Devon Police' will be in attendance.

Please feel free to 'copy & paste' this part of my report and share this with Parish Councils outside the 'Axminster Division' but, do fall within the 'Rural East Devon Police Area'

[Please will all Clerks give me an indication of how many Cllrs & Clerks will be attending.](#)

Agenda

1. Welcome and Introductions
2. Apologies for absence
3. To agree the purpose of the liaison meetings and terms of reference
4. Presentation by Insp Groves - policing structure, resources, crime trends and priorities followed by questions
5. To discuss the role of Parish Councils in communication, prevention and identifying priorities
6. Date and venue for the next meeting

Draft terms of reference.

To update councils on policing matters and current crime threats;

To identify areas where Councils can be effective around policing issues, whether working independently or with police support;

To provide a forum through which the police team can receive feedback from communities;

The forum will be strategic in nature and not to address individual cases or individual local policing issues.

<https://www.devonandcornwall-pcc.gov.uk/take-part/councillor-advocate-scheme>

Highways

A more general report this month where the winter rain is certainly testing our Highways Teams and putting back repairs, including potholes; however as you may have seen from recent media reports the long awaited 'dragon patchers' (so called because it uses flames to dry out potholes in cold or wet weather and also cleans the surface with compressed air, sealing the pothole with a stone mix and hot bitumen emulsion) will be arriving in our area which will make the process of repair much quicker and more efficient.

There are various capital and revenue pots of money in the DCC Highways overall budget and the Traffic management budget is showing an overall increase of £2.585m, including the addition of £1m to assist in dealing with **some** of the drainage issues that have been highlighted by this exceptionally wet winter.

There is a saving of £200k shown against winter operations, but this is not a service cut, simply a review of the allocated budget based on the costs of the last 3 winters and milder winters. Within the statistics for the service, there have however been increases due primarily to the adoption of new roads and structures.

The planned increase in grass cutting should not cost any more money but deal with grass in a more efficient manner, i.e. regular verges that have been cut for safety reasons when they become 'defects' will now be dealt with routinely in a more cost-effective manner.

Infrastructure

There is good news for those who commute and visit Exeter relating to infrastructure to the east of the City

Park and Change Science Park

Following DCC cabinet approval this scheme will be completed by February next year. The £2.2m scheme will provide 300 parking spaces, secure bike lockers, co bikes, co cars and electric charging points.

The site seeks to reduce congestion on the A30 Honiton road and Moor Lane. Funding is from National Productivity Investment Fund and Exeter and East Devon Enterprise Zone.

Moor Lane Roundabout Upgrade

Work has started on this scheme to increase capacity on the roundabout, most of the work is off the road but for safety reasons temporary traffic lights are in use. There will be some overnight closures.

The initial phase will be completed by May. In the summer work will continue to provide an additional lane on the southern approach, from Sowton Industrial estate. The scheme is expected to be completed by the Autumn.

DCC Budget 2020/21

The figures involved in the preparation of the budget each year at DCC are very significant, but in terms of the Net Revenue Budget the total was £493,850,000 and over £1bn for the Gross (e.g. including Education) in 2019/20 and likely to be around £498,097,000 for 2020/21 once final figures from Central Government are known in the near future.

The Net budget breaks down in to a number of service areas as below, with Adult Care & Health using around three quarters of the total.

<u>DCC Revenue budget 2019/20</u>	<u>£000</u>
Adult Care & Health	£232,599
Children's Services	£135,153
Communities, Public Health, Environment & Prosperity	£ 38,577
Corporate Services	£ 32,974
Highways, Infrastructure Development & Waste	£ 54,547
<u>Total Service Budgets</u>	<u>£493,850</u>

A couple of variables that can make big differences to services delivered are that whilst DCC holds reserves of £111,172,000, most of this is allocated and with a working balance of £14,757,000 this equates to roughly 4.5 days of the Councils expenditure, so little margin for error in terms of any unforeseen and unplanned emergencies.

DCC has certain legal obligations to all residents and with little way of predicting increased demand, 3% of people account for 70% of the Adult and Children's budget which has had a huge impact on finances in recent years; with demand only going upwards this needs Government intervention to address with utmost urgency.

ENDS