

REPORT FROM CTY CLLR KEITH WITHAM, WORPLESDON 25th October 2018

1. SCC BUDGET POSITION. Hopefully WPC Cllrs have seen my email newsletter / update which explains in more detail, following on from the previous briefing that I gave to WPC. In particular possible cuts and changes to be considered to the following:

- subsidies for rural bus services
- community recycling centres
- libraries
- childrens centres
- special educational needs
- youth services

in order to save a further £250 million a year (in addition to over £540 million a year of cost savings which have already been made during the past 7-8 years). As you know Councils must legally only set a budget for expenditure for the amount of income it can expect to receive.

There will be a special SCC Council meeting in November, public consultations on all the above, for final decisions in February and I will keep both WPC and residents informed.

2. SUPPORT FOR LOCAL VOLUNTARY GROUPS /PROJECTS THIS YEAR

Members may recall my request for local voluntary groups to apply for the funding available from SCC and I'm pleased to report a very good take up. And before someone asks me how there is still money for such grants when the SCC Revenue Budget is under such pressure, the answer is in the sums available for grants, in the hundreds of pounds (maximum £500), compared to literally £hundreds of £millions of pounds for the major services such as adult and children's social services, where the major cost pressures are.

So as long as there are such funds made available for local voluntary groups and projects I will do all I can to assist local groups and projects in Worplesdon. Those successful this year are below (20):

FAIRLANDS

- Fairlands GP Surgery Patient Liaison Group, for cancer awareness raising event.
- FLGCA for external Christmas lights for Fairlands community centre
- Clearance and maintenance, Footpath 458, Fairlands
- Worplesdon Parish Council, contribution to planting in planters to deter parking
- Planting of Rowan Trees to deter parking (spring 2019 on arborist advice)

JACOBS WELL

- River of Life Friendship Group, for PA equipment
- Jacobs Well Scouts, Hall maintenance project
- Jacobs Well Residents Association, for gazebos for events

WORPLESDON

- Guide and Rainbows, Rydes Hill, for storage facilities
- Sime Gallery, contribution to new website
- Surrey Wildlife Trust, equipment for volunteers
- Surrey Wildlife Trust, for clearance of debris Whitmoor Common
- extra verge grass cut, Saltbox Road (additional to the WPC funded one)

WOOD STREET VILLAGE

- Wood Street Village Cricket Club, for practice surface area
- Wood Street Village Jazz Festival, event supporting Disability Challengers

Appendix 2

County Councillor's Report – Full council meeting 25 October 2018

Worplesdon Parish Council

- additional grit bin (joint with WPC)

GUILDFORD WIDE, BUT ORGANISERS OR EVENTS IN WORPLESDON

- Guildford Baptist Church, "holiday at home" event for the retired
- Guildford Arts Society, for new display stands
- Care and Consideration with a smile (Disability support group) for gazebos
- Here for Cats, animal charity, for volunteer training at Merrist Wood

I do not yet know if funds for local community grants / projects will be available again in 2019 but if so I will publicise their availability and their criteria at the time.

3. LACK OF CAR PARKING CHARGES AT WHITMOOR/BITAIN'S POND, SALT BOX ROAD

I have been asking about the continued lack of car parking charges at Salt Box and Whitmoor , which were due to come in in early August, and have expressed concern about the loss of income and to find out what has happened.

SCC was told by its contractors that the signal was going to be okay although not as strong as wanted. SCC asked the contractor to improve the signal, but when the meters were put in they did not put the right technology in. It has taken since early August and are no further ahead.

Not a position anyone wants to be in, but please rest assured that SCC has not paid the bill and will be seeking damages from the contractor, and is currently sorting out the alternatives and associated costs.