

County Councillor – Cllr Tony Hicks – (Retiring on the 4th May 2017 when my successor will be elected.)

ANNUAL REPORT to Town and Parishes of the Tetbury Division (1Town and 16 Parishes) of Gloucestershire.

KEY ISSUES OF PAST YEAR 2016-17 AND LOOKING FORWARD TO 2017-18

We aimed to improve services for vulnerable (including old and dependant Adults, Children in care and disabled, and the needs of the Mental health sufferers). The demographic changes in all these areas in our communities are increasing with more complex needs. Whilst provisions were carefully planned and managed , overspends were sustained and had to be supported by reserves and savings in other areas. The 2017-18 budget has had to embrace these challenges and again we are increasing GCC local tax by 2% Government Adult Care special increase, plus a further 1.99% County increase, creating some £4.8 million of extra revenue.

Roads were continuing to be a major priority in order to achieve safe and effective economic infrastructure , and the County Contractor performance has improved with additional funds applied this last year. For the new year in 2017-18 Government is enabling the County to create a further £9 million of funding to invest in our roads.

Schools are another important priority to us all, with 5 Primary and 1 Secondary in Tetbury Division, achieving above average quality of performance. The new National funding formula has arrived for consultation applicable to the future and Gloucestershire Education department is engaged in representations of concerns with some of our schools. As in previous years with others of the schools, 3 have received Children’s Activity grants this last year aimed at improving physical and personal schemes.

Waste partnerships with Districts continue to recycle at a high %, particularly in the Cotswolds. The County build of an incinerator will substantially improve the reduction in landfill (which attracts high Gov’t Tax) with the benefit of a side product of electricity for local use.

After lengthy negotiations and innovative thinking by County staff a section of the old rail-line has now been registered as a Bridle path enabling passage by pedestrians, horses, and cycles. New endeavours for future extension may follow.

The local Fire and Rescue teams continue to achieve one of the highest performing in the Country.

We are one of the few local Authorities that have not closed one Library and I hope our communities will use this important facility in the future.

Finally our County Council is increasingly integrating with NHS services throughout the County. We have signed to the new Sustainable and transformation Plan currently out for Public consultation. The aim is to provide more local health support and less congestion at acute Hospitals (Gloucester Royal and Cheltenham General) which will concentrate on more critical specialist work. The Tetbury GP practice joining with the Phoenix GP practice with contribute to this plan. The plan also included a request for all of us to take more responsibility for our health well being.

With thanks for giving me the opportunity of serving as your County Councillor for 20years!!