

## **WHALEY BRIDGE TOWN COUNCIL AGM**

**FRIDAY 27 APRIL 2018**

### **REPORT OF ALISON FOX, COUNTY COUNCILLOR FOR WHALEY BRIDGE**

I have really enjoyed my first year as your County Councillor and have been involved in a variety of issues and a brief summary is shown below:

#### **Members Community Leadership Scheme Grants**

Each County Councillor receives £3860 per year to donate to local community projects and since being elected in May 2017 I have donated to the following Groups in Whaley Bridge:

Whaley Bridge Football Club

1<sup>st</sup> Taxal Scout Group

Whaley Bridge WI

Furness COGS

There is still money available if groups wish to get in touch with me about their projects.

#### **Changing Facilities at COGS Playing Field**

I have been lobbying the Cabinet Member for Young People for funding towards the changing rooms and it's looking very likely that DCC will be giving a contribution towards the project.

#### **Reporting of Routine Highway Issues**

I have reported several potholes, flooding and street lighting issues over the past year and I am always happy to receive reports of such problems so that they can be logged and dealt with. You may not be aware but members of the public are able to speed up the process by reporting problems directly on the website using the link given at the end of my written report.

#### **Meetings**

I have attended as many meetings as I can with a range of organisations across my Division. However, if you are aware of meetings that I have not been invited to but you think would be of benefit to me and to the group and community, please do let me know.

#### **Library**

I know many of you will be disappointed to hear that Whaley Bridge is one of 20 libraries that has been earmarked for community management. The Leader has given assurances that no libraries will be closed. The 12 week consultation period

will begin on Monday 7 May and I would urge you all to have your say and more details on how to do that will be released soon.

## **WIDER ISSUES**

The County Council has a wide remit and the schemes and projects they have progressed since May 2017 are too numerous to list in detail so just a small sample are:

### **Highways and Transport Schemes 2017/18**

- The Whaley Bridge County Council Division has benefitted from schemes totalling £218,000 in the capital programme for the last financial year, including:
  - Buxton Road (Crossroads with B5470) - carriageway resurfacing
  - Buxton Road (Old Road to school) - carriageway resurfacing
  - Shallcross Incline - Flood prevention - greenway drainage and surface repairs following damage by flooding
  - Whaley Lane - footway works to improve pedestrian access to the train station

Other achievements regarding highways and transport matters are:

- Derbyshire achieved the highest ranking authority for road maintenance out of 31 county councils taking part in the 2017 National Highways and Transport Network residents' satisfaction survey
- DCC allocated an extra £6m for highways maintenance, taking the total additional funding to £16.5m
- DCC extended the Gold Card application process so that it is also available to online applicants.
- DCC Organised day-long classroom and practical 'First Gear' pre driver training sessions for 15-17 yr olds

### **Young People**

- Schools in the Whaley Bridge Division have benefited from devolved funds of over £39,000 between 7 schools.
- Launch of a new information/resources helping children to be school ready
- Received two national awards for our school meals service
- Organised events supporting both fostering and adoption.

## Adult Social Care

- Derbyshire County Council was allocated an extra £16.2m for 2017/18 for adult social care services from the Government's Better Care Fund.
- The Derbyshire Connect bus project was rolled out and DCC pledged to continue supporting Dial-a-Bus - style 'shopping' buses and aCTive Travel journeys to healthcare appointments.
- Invited families to be part of the extended 'Shared Lives Scheme'
- Offered 64 beds in residential homes providing temporary support to people who no longer need acute hospital care but who are not well enough to go home
- Increased social care support to reduce the number of hospital patients having to stay in hospital longer than needed.

## Grants

There are many grant schemes available across Derbyshire such as:

- The award of £18,006 Arts Grant to High Peak Community Arts for community arts activities ensuring all local people have opportunities to participate in the arts
- Grants of up to £35,000 from the Peak LEADER Scheme to help rural businesses and community groups
- Approval of £1m for 750 Youth Activity Grants, 750 Derbyshire Sport and Community Action Grants and 500 community safety projects, Neighbourhood Watch schemes/anti-fraud initiatives
- Approval of a grant of £30,000 to the Financial Action and Advice Partnership which is a partnership of 50 local organisations from the public, voluntary and private sectors who work together to tackle financial exclusion in Derbyshire
- £215,000 for the Disability Derbyshire Coalition for Inclusive Living providing a wide range of services for disabled people

Alison Fox

County Councillor for Whaley Bridge Division

Email address: [Alison.fox@derbyshire.gov.uk](mailto:Alison.fox@derbyshire.gov.uk)

Mobile number: 07970 741866

Office number: 01629 536022