

2016/17 Report from outgoing County Councillor Mark Kemp-Gee

"I am sorry for two reasons: first, that I am unable to be with you this evening as I am having a post-election break in Cornwall and, second, the Alton Rural Division has been boundary changed so that Ropley and East and West Tisted are now in the Petersfield Hangers Division (with Russell Oppenheimer as your County Councillor) rather than myself. This has been caused by the population explosion in Four Marks.

Whilst it has been a relatively quiet year in East Tisted village, I have been very busy with issues at the County Council particularly the difficult position we have with regard to adult social care where we spend £450 million a year looking after some 20,000 people in need of support, most of them elderly. The introduction of the minimum living wage on 1st April will cost HCC Adult Social Care £10 million alone and you can see why we have needed to put up council tax by 5%. A 1% increase in council tax equates to £5 million.

We are also in a position whereby our Rate Support Grant from Central Government is virtually being wiped out in this ten year period 2010 – 2020 and as a result the way we deliver services and the scope of those services are going to be transformed. It is also inevitable that we are facing a major reform in how we raise council tax and also how we deliver adult social care.

On local issues, I have been busy with the A32 flood action problems and I am pleased to say we are finally making some progress with significant ditching, drain and culvert work due to be done this summer as a first stage in Farrington and the preparation of a major feasibility study for more serious remedial work when funds permit.

You will note that a new 40 MPH buffer has been introduced beyond the 30 MPH in Farrington towards East Tisted. I have engaged with the new Police Commander in East Hampshire with regard to the dreadful situation of irresponsible motorbike riding on the A32. There have been many suggestions that the new 40 MPH limit should be extended to beyond the Newton Valence crossroads and I am mindful that, in any further package of traffic calming measures, East Tisted would also like to be considered for a 30 MPH limit rather than the 40 MPH limit it currently has. Bear in mind we were able to introduce the 50 MPH limit initially and then bring it down to 40 MPH, so I very much hope that my successor will work with you and me on these issues as I still represent Farrington and Newton Valence.

I hope you have a successful evening and I hope to see you all soon."

Mark Kemp-Gee

9th May 2017