

**Lighthorne Parish Council 11<sup>th</sup> February 2020**  
**County Councillor's Report**

**1. Finance**

The County will set the budget for the coming year on 18<sup>th</sup> February 2020. The various departments have all submitted their fiscal requirements and whilst the County's finances and reserves are healthy there has been an issue with Adult Social Care not only at Warwickshire but with all other authorities. We await the Green Paper on this matter and hopefully funding of this major item will be resolved shortly. The changes to the funding of local authorities has made us more dependent upon the level of Business Rates collected locally. It is likely to result in the Council's funding being difficult to a greater extent than in previous years. This places greater importance on the need to maintain reserves. There is also a greater uncertainty with the pending Fair Funding Review and how this may affect the resources available to the council. It is proposed that Council Tax will increase by 3.99%. This figures include a 2% allowance for social care costs as in the previous year.

**2. Highways**

I mentioned last month that the County Council has been named as the UK's Top Performing Council for Highway Maintenance for the second year running. In addition, Warwickshire County Council is putting additional resources into clearing blocked drains, gullies and culverts around the county's roads to combat the effects of increased flooding. An exceptionally wet winter has led to saturated ground conditions which easily become flooded with additional rainfall. In November heavy rainfall was so excessive that 100ml fell in 4 hours one morning. This is one reason why WCC is taking action to improve the county's drainage systems after the recent flooding and hopefully to prepare for any further downpours in the winter months. For example: where flooding is at most risk work to clear drains will now be carried out to include working at weekends. To increase capacity the council has contracted additional drain-clearing apparatus and staff. The danger and inconvenience of flooded homes and roads is well-known yet as the climate warms up the risk of flooding due to more frequent, intense and localised rainfall increases. Fortunately, the county's resources will fund this initiative.

**3. Grants**

Funding opportunities: I advised last month about grant opportunities under the WCC under the countywide health and wellbeing grants programme. It is expected that these grants will be repeated during the year and I will keep you in touch when they become available.

**4. Administration**

I cannot stress too strongly that Warwickshire is still affected by itinerant travellers so if you become aware of any incidents please do not contact the travellers directly but telephone Warwickshire Police on telephone 101 (not 999) in the first instance and then notify the Gypsy and Travellers' Team on [www.warwickshire.gov.uk/travellerunauthorisedsites](http://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/travellerunauthorisedsites).

**Cllr Chris Williams**

**Member for Kineton and Red Horse Division**

**11.02.2020**