

Aldbury Parish Council Annual Parish Assembly 25 April 2022

Report from Sally Symington, County Councillor, Tring Division

Thank you for inviting me to speak at your Annual Parish Assembly this evening. I'm sorry not to be joining you in person, but following discussion with the Chair, Suzanne Stretton, it was agreed, given the significance for Aldbury, that I would attend the Tring Town Council meeting this evening at which the planning application for the proposed Marshcroft Garden Village Suburb, which includes the delivery of 1400 new homes, will be discussed and to report back to you all later. The following written report aims to cover the issues I would have talked about and I am, of course, always happy to answer questions and follow up outside of formal meetings.

I was asked to discuss briefly the responsibilities of the county council and my role within it.

Hertfordshire has a two-tier system of local government comprising the county council and 10 separate district or borough councils; one of which is our own Dacorum Borough Council. This system contrasts with, for example, Buckinghamshire which since April 2020 has one 'unitary' council and the London boroughs which also have a single tier of government.

The County Council's key responsibilities include: adult social care; children and young people; education; libraries; highways and transport; planning; public health; waste management and trading standards.

Hertfordshire County Council has a net revenue budget of just under £1bn for the current year and a proposed capital programme of £414m for the same period. Over 40% of the revenue budget is accounted for by Adult Care Services; and Highways and Transport account for a quarter of the capital budget. Each of the 78 county councillors has a highways budget of £90,000 for works or improvements in their area and a members locality budget of £10,000 to provide grants for local projects that promote the social, economic and environmental wellbeing of their area. Please do bring forward any projects in Aldbury that might be suitable for either source funding.

Tring Division is one of the largest in the county by geographic area. Including Aldbury, it comprises three parish councils and Tring Town Council. It is home to one state-funded secondary school and seven primary schools and a not insignificant proportion of Herts County Council's 10,800 hectare rural estate is located in the division.

As well as representing the residents of Aldbury and the wider Tring Division at Herts County Council, I am the Opposition Spokesperson for Resources and Performance and a member of the Pensions Committee. Over the past year, I have put forward motions proposing funding free school meals during school holidays for recipients of universal credit and to end violence against women and girls. I have worked with the Flood Risk Management Team to mitigate the effects of flooding in many parts of the division; supported calls for the simplification of the roll out of 20mph zones and promoted sustainable travel by working to provide more and better cycle routes.

With regards the current year's Highways Locality Budget the allocation of which for Aldbury I have agreed with the Parish Council, I can update you as follows:

The Aldbury 20 mph zone is listed in the Countywide Delivery Programme at 394th out of 552. The allocation of Highways Locality Funding will help promote the proposal quicker, ie 22/23 but unfortunately, due to the pandemic, HCC is significantly behind with traffic survey in terms of their

actual collection. The Data Team are employing additional resources to help with the backlog and I will keep you updated as to their progress.

With regards the request for Waiting Restrictions (Double Yellow Lines): I have been advised that the Assistant Highways Manager, Peter Wright, has enough information for the 'Evidence Statement' (photos etc) to be signed off for the next stage. The information will be reviewed this week and following that I will be able to pass on to you a timeframe for moving it forward. If all goes to plan, I am advised that the public engagement stage is likely to progress within the next two months.

A number of other projects remain ongoing, such as discussions around the viability and possibility of installing a cycle way to Tring Station; and improvements to the highway surface at Brightwood Lane. Other issues have been harder to move forward, such as the suggested relocation of the derestriction signs going out of Aldbury along Newground Road. I cannot finish without a reminder to everyone to report all faults on the Herts County Council website. This can be found by entering the words Herts County Council + faults into your search engine; and please let me know if you have any difficulties in getting a response so that I can follow it up.

I look forward to working with you all to achieve your ambitions for Aldbury and delivering the best services Herts County Council can to your community. With apologies for not being with you in person this evening and thanks to Suzanne for reading my report to you. Please do keep in touch.

Sally Symington

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