

LITTLE WITLEY ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

02.05.17

COUNTY COUNCILLOR REPORT

A Brief Summary for May 2017

As we approach the County Council elections on Thursday, 4th May, it is worth spending a short while reflecting on the past year, or even four years. With the Local Enterprise Partnership and the Chamber of Commerce, among others, we have seen a great improvement in economic performance of the County, so that of all the LEP areas, we now rank first or second for the growth in the economy, productivity and higher skills.

We have a number of major infrastructure projects in progress or planning, and continue to extend broadband and mobile coverage across the County. 90% of our schools are rated good or outstanding, a considerable improvement in recent years.

There is still much to do, in particular with respect to our Children's Service which have been rated unsatisfactory. Ofsted have approved our senior management team and our plans for improvement, but the next few weeks and months will demonstrate whether we are making sufficient progress in the right direction.

The financial situation continues to cause concern, but we have implemented a number of measures to ensure we live within our means and without increasing council tax to the extent possible. The funding of adult social care will continue to be difficult, as our ageing population require more care from the state, although the great majority of older people are self-funding for most of the time.

There are other areas where developments are encouraging. For instance the Driving Home programme of improving our minor roads and the £6 million devoted to improving pavements. Tesco's have provided a large section of the Public Realm improvement of Tenbury and their store has now opened. Its impact on trade in the town is still to be discovered, but the public areas alongside the River Teme are to a very high standard and greatly improve the look of that riverside area.

I am confident that the coming year will see continued improvement for all residents of the Tenbury Division and the County as a whole. As usual, I am very happy to answer any queries about the affairs of the Council and seek to help anyone with particular problems.

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