



Working for the Community in Rotherfield, Mark Cross, Eridge Green, Boarshead and surrounding areas

Report to Rotherfield APM

It has been a privilege to serve as the County Councillor for the Division that includes the majority of the Rotherfield Parish for the last 4 years and I am delighted to have been elected again for the next 4 years.

Finance

Local Govt finances have been challenging as Local Government has had to play its part in reducing the national deficit. The County budget is £365m. This is after making an additional 17m in savings and charging the extra 3% Council Tax charge ring fenced for Adult Social Care. The 3% is in addition to the 1.99% Council Tax increase. As one who believes in keeping Council Tax as low as possible it was a difficult decision but I believe the correct one if we are to ensure the vulnerable in society are cared for.

Thankfully we are all living longer but this does create extra demands for Adult Social Care. In addition it is less well known that 40% of Adult Social care funding is for residents under 65. Adult Social Care and Children's services use 66% of the County's budget and are demand led. Most residents don't have a requirement for these services but greatly appreciate them when they are required.

Highways

My greatest frustration with the County council is the length of time it takes to carry out changes especially on highways. When I was elected to represent Rotherfield in 2013 at the Annual Parish Meeting immediately after that election I was asked by residents in High Cross to lobby for a reduction in speed limit from 60 to 40mph. At last year's meeting I was pleased to state that I had successfully persuaded Highways to implement it together with a reduction in part of Argos Hill. My disappointment is that 12 months later I have only just received notification that the scheme has been costed and will proceed. Good news that it is coming to fruition but it should not take 4 years to get there.

Rotherfield High Street

The restriction of longer vehicles going through Rotherfield – and often damaging buildings when they get stuck is proceeding. The number of signs and procedures to go through for such a scheme is extensive but county are well advanced with its introduction. Again it has taken a lot of lobbying but we are nearly there.

Bob Standley

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