

HERE AND NOW in HUNGERFORD

No. 35 in a series of regular briefings from the Council

APRIL 2016

A BIG THANK YOU

To all those many that rose to the challenge to fight the proposed Phase 2 Budget cuts by WBC which threatened so much of our preferred way of life. The transitional funding that has been used to keep our Library open and Children's Centre operating is only there for 2 years but I am confident that with the continuing community involvement as already demonstrated, we shall be able to find a sustainable model to provide a long term future for them.

However there is no time to lose and I hope that over the next few months, your Council can continue to work closely with the Friends of the Library that has been such a major force in persuading WBC of the error of their original proposal. We need to engage directly with WBC who have now indicated that they wish to approach this issue on more than a consultative way and to provide positive assistance to secure a mutually acceptable solution.

I am thankful that the Children's Centre is to remain as a hub for our rural community and so maintain the level of confidence that they have built up over the years with their clients. The reduced budget will require some adjustment to their scope of activities but again your Council will work to ensure that their prime objectives can still be achieved.

I regret that the future of the rural bus services remains uncertain but am encouraged by the pledge by District Cllr James Podger to press for the release of some £3,500 from the adult social care budget to enable CHAIN to maintain their essential service to our local and rural communities. **Watch this space for news.**

TOWN & MANOR AND YOU

Did you see the small Notice in last week's Adviser for the potential election of Trustees for the T&M? I say potential for it will only take place if there are more than 10 nominees for the positions available.

When I first arrived in Hungerford some 9 years ago, I was fascinated by what appeared to be a mysterious organisation that had a major influence on the town. Even now I am still a little uncertain of the intricacies of this 600 year guardian of local assets. Over the years as a Councillor I have come to appreciate just what an

asset that the T&M is in itself and have worked with them to ensure that both T&M and your Council provide a united front to meet the challenges of our time. Nevertheless, I am still unsure as to whether all residents fully appreciate that it is not just an organisation run by those who benefit from 'Commoners rights'.

Although as a resident of Eddington I am unable to nominate any person for the position of Trustee, nor vote on the election, anyone who resides in the old Parish of Hungerford, can do both. It would require a submission by two such eligible persons to have someone you believe could add to the management of the T&M, nominated for consideration of the prescribed electorate. The **closing date is 28 April**. For further details, contact the Returning Officer in WBC.



SPRING CLEANING IN TOWN

For years we have sought to declutter our streets of unnecessary signs. I am encouraged that the Dept. For Transport now see a need for this and hope that we can progress this aim. Just how many signs do you need to advise drivers that the big spot in the middle of a road junction is a mini-roundabout?



- Cllr Martin Crane, OBE, Town Mayor of Hungerford