

There is not much to report in relation to [Borden Gate](#) Parishes that I am aware of, which is a burning issue, there is a lot that could be done if we have the funding.

You will be aware of the revised Eden Westwood Project, this is a great improvement on their original application, whether it is sufficient to overcome all the issues, we will have to wait for the detail.

On a wider County issue, we are looking at the 20mph speed limits, Police Accident and Police Speed Enforcement. This is on hold until next year because the Government are reviewing the current Policy, this should have been with us for March 2016.

In the meantime, concerns relating to speed can be dealt with by working with the Police to assess issues and establish options for speed management and are considered through the Speed Compliant Action Review Forum, (SCRAF), but funding might be a problem.

Mobile phone reception in Devon is variable. The Ofcom 2012 report showed Devon 12% 3G coverage by all operators. This now has improved to 57%, but is way behind the UK average of 88%. On average, Residents and Businesses were willing to pay for improved services from 2G to 3G/4G.

Update of National Government Plans and Programmes are intending to allow the increase in mast height with appropriate community engagement to minimise the visual impact of masts to give better coverage.

Other parts of our work include Broadband to get a better coverage. Following the Chancellor's Budget announcement of £14.5m funding for Ultrafast Broadband in the South West, the CDS team has been notified that it has been successful in a bid for funding. The CDS programme is set to receive an extra £4m which will be used to deliver ultrafast broadband speeds of up to minimum of 100 Mbps. The CDS team will now work with BDUK to agree a detailed business plan for the funding which will form part of the phase 2 roll out.

You may be aware that the Highways Maintenance Contract is up for renewal this year, it is a renewal for a 7 year period, South West Highways are the current providers and they are one of the tenderers. The successful tenderer will have to give best value and not necessarily be the cheapest. The new contract will be awarded by October this year with a lead in period of 6 months, starting in April 2017.

With the restriction on funding, County want a closer relationship with Parishes, to understand how we can work better together, I can help a little with my budgets, but it can't take up all the cuts that tough choices County have had to take. 60% of County's funding used to come from Central Government, now only 30% come from Central Government, the rest from our Council Tax we pay. This current year County received £27m less from Central Government, we are not permitted to

increase Council Tax more than 2%. It would take 7%/8% increase to make up the cut. 1% increase in Council Tax will only produce £3.5m

It is our statutory duty to supply essential services to the vulnerable people, and because there have been exceptional levels of demand on Adult Social Care over the last six months , we are experiencing significant operational demands and financial pressures, our Officers are doing all they can to bring this under control.

The County's Education transport budgets are under pressure and a range of management actions are being implemented to reduce costs to within the budget envelope. The budget for 2016/17 is £21.564m and taking into account savings targets at the end of month 2, there is a predicted overspend of £1.08m.

Devolution is on the agenda and DCC are agreeing to an "in principle approach only" with the other 19 South Western Authorities. This would be subject to future debate and agreement by the Council and subject to negotiations with Government, there has to be something in it for us.

I am working on a scheme to increase the cutting of grass areas within Mid Devon and not just the cutting of splays/bends/junctions and signs, it will depend on the co-operation of Parishes.

Just a bit of what is going on. Ray Radford, Devon County Councillor