

Alan Dowden Baddesley County Councillors 2018 report

I have now been the Baddesley Division County Councillor for over 26 years. I am a member of the Health & Adult Social Care Select Committee & a member of Hampshire's Pension Funds Panel & Board .

I understand the challenge of the budgetary pressures that Hampshire County Council faces with a further £140 million of savings to be found over the next two years. It was disappointing that all of our Hampshire MPs voted for these savings to be made.

In early February, the government did however give a small amount of additional funding to Hampshire in the final budgetary settlement and allowed the authority to raise the Council Tax up to 6%. The County have raised the Band "D" Council Tax by 5.99% to £1,200.96p from April 2018. Hampshire's tax rise is in cash terms context is the steepest rise in three years in Hampshire's history rising by over 15%.

Council Tax is a regressive tax: it hits hardest those on low and fixed incomes. Once again the revenue budget is about managing decline rather than fostering growth.

The County Council have been able to identify extra revenue from areas such as their street lighting contract, and renting out buildings that were surplus to requirement.

Health & Adult Social Care have been tasked to find a further £56 million of savings over the next two years. This follows already having to save £181 million since 2010, at a time when people are living longer and therefore making greater demands on services. There is a dependency more and more on voluntary organisations, family and friends and neighbours to assist with social care requirement needs. This is why I was active in seeking that we maintain Community Transport; subsidised public bus services like the (46) Stagecoach service from North Baddesley to Winchester. I argued with the administration that there was no joined up thinking by cutting these services. How could many of these vulnerable people attend voluntary organisations and hospital appointments without transport provision. I am pleased that

there has been a **temporary reprieve until April 2019** for bus subsidies and Community Transport grants, so services will continue..

Social Services have a huge task in finding cost savings. To date savings have been found by the use of better technology & Extra Care provision and Re-enablement teams are areas that have helped to reduce costs. Further large cost savings have been achieved by reducing staff. The Conservative Chairman of the Local Government Associations Well Being Board, said “ **Councils have a proud record of getting on with the job of delivering for local residents and doing so in partnership. But it is not an exaggeration to say that circumstances are now steering steadily towards the impossible.** The government have promised a green paper due to be published in the summer of 2018.

The Household Waste Recycling Centres have also temporarily been reprieved. **However, charges for this service are being sought by Hampshire County Council from Central Government.**

School crossing controls will also now continue, although a much stricter criteria has been introduced to make sure they are absolutely necessary and those that do not meet the new criteria will be lost.

The Gladmans planning application for 365 homes at Thorn Hill off Flexford Road was refused by Test Valley Borough Council on planning policy grounds & highway objections by Hampshire County Council. Although situated in the parish of North Baddesley its greatest impact would have been on Ampfield & Valley Park.

Test Valley Borough Council have deferred the outline planning application for 300 homes at Hoe Lane on highway grounds mainly, and also ~~the~~ that no funding had been allocated to health provision. Cllr Mrs Celia Dowden one of the local members moved that the allocation be deferred for further negotiations and this was supported unanimously.

Cllr Celia Dowden & myself organised an Autumn bulb planting event on Botley Road and this Spring we will see the results of the efforts of North Baddesley Infant & Junior schools and Matt Le Tissier's efforts to brighten up North Baddesley. We have found an offer of further funding from Cheater's the

funeral directors who have moved into North Baddesley to do another planting scheme next Autumn.

I have been able to provide financial support to many groups and organisations from my HCC Community grant annual allowance. Some are listed below.

- Braishfield Bees Football Club & the Braishfield Village Hall
- St Francis Church, & Knightwood Youth Club, Valley Park
- Relate South West Hampshire
- Eastleigh/Test Valley Mencap
- Scouting organisation at Chandlers Ford & North Baddesley
- North Baddesley over 60's Club
- Romsey Choral Society & Hampshire Search & Rescue Dogs