

**At CDC:** I attended my first Overview and Scrutiny committee which was very interesting as it gave me my first insight into the workings of the council. The committee has responsibility to highlight any issues on reports that are going to the cabinet for their approval. On the finance report I queried why income from car parking was almost £500k lower than forecast, and did it have anything to do with removing the ability to pay by cash? Another report highlighted a new Rural England Prosperity Fund that will open for applications in September/October – this grant scheme will enable local organisations and businesses to request funds for improvements to local facilities such as village halls and energy efficiency improvements. I'll let you know when it is open, but it would be advisable to make plans now. It will need a 20% matched fund from the project. You may have seen elsewhere that the new 'Changing Places' toilet facility is now open in the Abbey Grounds in Cirencester. At this week's full council meeting it was agreed to progress with the installation of solar panels on the roof of CDC HQ.

I have already been to several PC meetings this month, and it's interesting that there are common themes in the villages – mostly around speeding and parking. It's a very difficult subject to resolve but I have been able to recommend actions to work with GCC Highways to get data before deciding on a course of action.

It is also apparent that attracting new councillors is difficult, with several parishes short of volunteers.

I have been reading that Link, the organisation that runs the UK cash machine network is opening shared hubs to provide a banking service in towns where all banks have left. The idea is that individual banks have their own staff on duty one day per week, but general banking can be carried out every day. I have made early enquiries if such a hub could be opened in Tetbury.

### **Kingscote:**

I was made very welcome at this month's Parish Council meeting, and it was good to see several members of the public in attendance. I was very surprised to find out that the road through the village is a 'national limit' of 60 mph, and hopefully I was useful in recommending a course of action referred to above.

### **Councillor Tony Slater**

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