

At CDC: The leader confirmed that CDC was currently in a good financial position, but in the coming years difficult decisions would mean some non-statutory services would change and some would cease, to avoid problems recently seen in Birmingham.

Despite receiving a petition signed by more than 1000 people, initiated by the opposition group of councillors, the majority group voted to uphold their decision to stop grants to Visitor Information Centres in the CDC area. Some will be able to adapt to finding alternative income sources, but some will inevitably close. This will save a rather modest £54000.

Also relating to tourism, a review is being commissioned into public toilets. A report will be presented to the Overview & Scrutiny group into locations and usage, and I have volunteered to lead a piece of work on the future of these assets. My aim is to ensure the Cotswolds retain and improve these essential facilities.

A motion was presented on how to improve water saving measures in new build houses – this was unanimously approved, but I suggested it should be made even stronger.

Issues within the planning department have been confirmed, especially in the Enforcement team – a new officer has recently been appointed to help, but there are several vacancies. There is a photo competition running until mid-October to showcase the beauty and variety of the Cotswolds – see the CDC website or Facebook for details.

Banking in Tetbury: In a previous update you may recall that I formally approached Link with a view to establishing a banking hub in Tetbury. Following their thorough review, they responded ‘the current level of access to cash provision being assessed as being suitable for the community and therefore a new solution is not considered to be necessary in this location’.

One of the lovely aspects to this role is being able to bring people together. In travelling around the ward, I make lots of contacts, and because my details publicly available people come to me as well. In the last few weeks, I have been able to match an existing Parish Clerk with a vacancy in another parish, which has benefitted both parties. In a more unusual case, a domestic parrot had escaped and was found after several days ‘on the run’ – I was contacted by the finder and was able to facilitate a happy ending with ‘Alfie’ safely returned home.

Kingscote: The draft results of the traffic survey have been released, and there are some good suggestions to help reduce speeding – hopefully Highways will support these as they will be at minimal cost to them.

Councillor Tony Slater

Cotswold District Council, Representing Grumbolds Ash with Avening.

email: Tony.slater@cotswold.gov.uk Tel: 07793669930