Kings-Ripton Parish Council AGM

Tuesday, 19th May 2015

The County Council have had a very tough year to get a balanced budget and reach savings of 31 million pound, the committee system is working well and hard decisions have had to be taken , the committee system is evolving and work is in progress it has been decided at full council that committees be reduced to 13 members from 17 which should make the system more manageable. The county council are trying to introduce new revenue streams including the lease of the central library's 3rd floor in Cambridge ,which is being discussed in June, and forming a legal company that is available to the public, Castle Court has been vacated and all departments have now moved into shire Hall , the county council however voted for an increase in council tax of 1.99%, Parish councils throughout ward are urged to work together and to co-operate and workout the effect that housing developments will have on the local infrastructure, i.e. schools, roads, gp surgeries, especially from the Wyton on the hill, and Upwood developments. The highways committee will soon be in consultation as the contract with Atkins is near its expiry date and new tenders sort, As the budgets are squeezed ever tighter it is envisaged that more and more will have to be taken on by the parish councils or volunteer orientated programmes, the care network and the county are working together to try and increase the local navigator programme to help the most vulnerable in the area, and will keep the parish council informed on these issues.

Funding has been difficult to find but we managed to patch some of the worst potholes which still need to be reported through the Cambridge county council website, after winning the LHIB last year after traffic calming was flagged up through the CLP, New chicanes have been installed in the village, which is causing lots of discussions in the other parishes, thoughts are now needed for this year's LHIB so evidence can be gathered and ideas submitted to the parish council, speeding and parking is the main topic in all the villages at the police forums and sgt street is aware of the situation, However this needs to be continually monitored as development in the locality grows. The next contentious issue that effects the villages is turning the street lights off from midnight to 5am in the morning, however parish and district councils will be consulted by county officers on this matter. Time banking is increasing throughout the county and has been having some great success bringing communities together and also delivering community projects. Charging on the park and ride sites at st ives and longstanton has now started, the charge will be £1.00 for a stay of up to 18 hours. The Grande Fondo a cambridge bike race is scheduled to ran in the locality on the 7th June and times of road closures have been sent to all parish clerks in the ward, please circulate to all concerned.

It has been noted that the county council is poor at engaging with the public, this year it is intended to rectify this with new initiatives being discussed at a higher level and a champion of communities being appointed on how to achieve this. Locally i have set up a twitter page, and blog so that local issues can be mentioned and residents kept informed, the url for this is: miketew.blogspot.co.uk, this has comment page where residents can leave a message.

County councillor

Michael Tew