

Padbury Parish Council AGM April 2016

County Councillor's Report - John Chilver

1. High Speed Two

The County Council will be petitioning the House of Lords on the Hybrid Bill. One successful achievement of previous lobbying was the decision made by High Speed Two Ltd to cancel the plans for a huge spoil heap near Steeple Claydon. Another recent success was an additional £1m compensation for the Steeple Claydon area.

2. East West Rail

The Henty Review of current Network Rail projects stated that there would be 'significant delivery' of the Western Section between Bicester and Bletchley by March 2019 and completion within the next 5 year period (2019 – 24) although the actual completion date cannot be confirmed at this stage. Following the public consultation last autumn the EWR alliance is working on the outline design and construction programme. There will be a presentation to the Winslow Local Area Forum in September to which the public are welcome.

3. A413 Sustainable Travel Scheme

Public exhibitions and a consultation were held last autumn. The construction of the new footpath and cycleway from Buckingham to Winslow is scheduled to start this year. The cost (£ 1.8m) has been directly funded by the Department for Transport.

4. County Council Budget

The County Council freeze on all non-essential revenue expenditure enabled us to achieve a breakeven position at the financial year end. There are particular spending pressures in children's services and adults' social care. This year's Council Tax increase is 1.9 %.

5. Enterprise Zones

In his recent spending review the Chancellor announced three new enterprise zones in Aylesbury Vale at Silverstone, Westcott Venture Park and Arla/Woodlands near Aston Clinton. This is excellent news as it will boost local infrastructure, inward business investment and jobs.

6. Roads

This year's capital budget has set the roads capital maintenance total at £ 15m which will help to continue to address the backlog. Programmes for improvement include High Street and Buckingham Road Winslow and the A421 between Singleborough and Thornborough. In Padbury, Old End, Church Lane, Station Road and Westfurlong are scheduled for resurfacing. Preparatory work will be done in June to August and completion in September or October 2016.

7. Broadband

The Connected Counties broadband programme supported by both the County Council and AVDC is on target to achieve 90% superfast broadband coverage. Aylesbury Vale Broadband Ltd has been set

up by AVDC to cover additional areas and is currently delivering a pilot scheme in North Marston and Granborough. Those who wish to be considered for further roll-out should register an interest on the Aylesbury Vale Broadband website.

8. Public Transport consultation

There is a transport needs consultation survey on the County Council website until 30th April giving an opportunity to share your views on local public and community transport. Buckingham and the surrounding area has been chosen for a pilot project to test how the funding for public transport can best be used.

9. Concessionary bus pass renewals

43,000 bus pass renewals were scheduled for the end of March and the County Council put in additional resources to cope with this. The process will be staggered in future years. A grace period has been agreed with local bus companies to continue to accept the expired passes until the end of April.