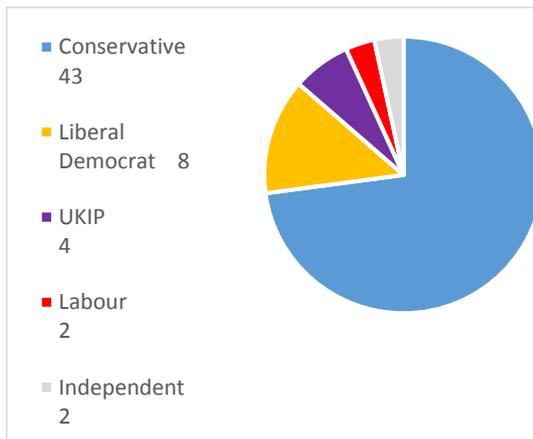


**REPORT TO PADBURY ANNUAL MEETING
FROM CLLR LEW MONGER – AYLESBURY VALE DISTRICT COUNCIL
19th APRIL 2016**

The Winslow Ward of AVDC includes Padbury, Adstock, Addington, and Shipton in addition to Winslow itself. It is a two member Ward and I was re-elected in May 2015 for a four year term.

MAKE UP OF THE COUNCIL – APRIL 2016



**WINSLOW WARD ELECTION RESULTS MAY 2015
(top two candidates elected)**

Election Candidate	Party	Votes	%
Llew Monger	Liberal Democrats	1545	24%
Susan Renshell	Conservative	1351	21%
Trish Cawte	Liberal Democrats	1248	19%
Brian Speed	Conservative	973	15%
Amy Howitt	UKIP	394	6%
Margaret Price	UKIP	324	5%
Frazer Payne	Green Party	309	5%
Mary Hunt	Green Party	276	4%

COUNCIL ACTIVITIES

The principle activities of the council are Planning, Housing, Benefits, Recycling & Waste collection, Licensing and Environmental issues plus Public car parks, and Community centres in Aylesbury. Matters such as Education, Transport, Social services and waste disposal are the responsibility of the County Council. Currently there is debate about creating a 'Unitary' authority which would administer all functions. Given the open antagonism between Neil Blake and Martin Tett (Leaders of the two councils) it is clear that a move to unitary status will not be without difficulty. Personally I have always been in favour of the principle of unitary councils but there are a number of ways to achieve this and there is much work still to be done to decide on the best model for AVDC.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT FUNDING

Historically local authorities secured roughly 50% of their income from Council Tax and 50% from central government grants. The latter element is being steadily reduced and will have expired altogether by 2020. Councils must therefore reduce staff and services, increase council tax or find new sources of revenue. In most cases, including AVDC, it is proving to be a mix of all three. This is leading to the commercialisation of AVDC. Much is being made by senior officers and cabinet members of a range of initiatives aimed at generating new income streams which it is suggested could make the council financially self-sufficient by 2023. However, we have yet to see a business plan for any of these initiatives and nor has an overall forecast of income and expenditure been proposed. Despite the fact that there has already been investment in at least two of the projects no management accounts have been produced for them. There is no doubting the need to generate new income streams but what we have at present appears to be little more than wishful thinking.

PLANNING

Apart from income generation the other main focus of the council is the development of the Vale of Aylesbury Local Plan (VALP). This plan will be the blueprint for housing and economic development across the vale through to 2031. A draft plan is to be published in June with a consultation period running through the summer.

Following that consultation a final version of the plan will be worked up and there will be a further consultation on this in early 2017 with the plan submitted for examination in March / April. Assuming a satisfactory examination it is anticipated that the plan will be adopted in the summer of 2017. The development of the plan is supposed to be overseen by a VALP Scrutiny Committee but this has met infrequently and not at all for the last six months. At my insistence there will be a meeting of the committee in May prior to the publication of the draft plan in June.

In the absence of an up to date Local Plan and the failure of AVDC to have the required five years housing land supply virtually any application for new housing is having to be agreed. In any event most larger villages, including Padbury, will be allocated new housing targets in VALP. For Padbury this could mean that applications for development at the old cricket pitch off the A413 (40 units) and at Poultry Field (50 units) and other smaller developments will eventually be agreed.

MY COUNCIL AND RELATED ACTIVITY

I am a member of the Strategic Development Management Committee and the VALP Scrutiny Committee (when it meets!). I also sit on the Member Development Committee which organises training and development sessions for council members. Although they meet rarely I am also a member of the Senior Appointments Committee and the Appeals and Complaints Committee. I represent AVDC on the Trustee Board of Buckingham and Winslow Citizens Advice. In addition to my membership of AVDC I am a member of Winslow Town Council where I Chair the Finance and General Purposes Committee. Through my involvement with the development of Neighbourhood Plans I am a Neighbourhood Plan Champion for the Department of Communities and Local Government.

In addition to my council related work I sit on the local board or the LEADER FUND (Liaison entre actions de développement de l'économie rurale) which distributes grants from the EU Agricultural Fund for Rural Development. The fund supports projects in Farming, Forestry and Rural Communities. The application process is rigorous but grants of up to £50,000 can be achieved for appropriate projects.

I hold a Residents Surgery on the first Saturday of every month at the offices of Winslow Town Council and can be contacted at any time on 07808 096513 or at llewmonger@btinternet.com

I am happy to take questions on this report or any other aspect of the work of the District Council.

Cllr Llew Monger

AVDC Member for Addington, Adstock, Padbury, Shipton and Winslow

19/04/16