

Devon County Report March 22

Budget

Council tax increase of 2.99%, meaning a rise of £45.18 for a Band D – the total for Band D now being £1556.46 for the year.

Extra £29.6 million on adult care and health (up 10.5%)

Extra £17.1 million in Children's Services (up 10.8%)

Highways – no change in real terms which is going to cause us a significant headache with local requests going forward, I'm sorry to say, as I had hoped for an increase here.

Much of this extra money is going to have to be found out of Council reserves.

The other piece of very bad news is that the locality budget given to each County Councillor to support your local schemes has been reduced from £10,000 to £8,000. This reduction, representing saving of £120,000 - or 0.0024% of the Council's total spending power (some £600 million) seems difficult to justify, in financial terms, in meeting our requirement to help communities stay strong, connected and resilient, but most of all in supporting local projects that do not attract other funding streams.

Kitterford Cross

The main contract is shortly to be awarded. The project has been held up in part by the conveyance of one of the fields but also by SWW's timescale regarding the lowering of a water main.

An early entry clause to remove the hedges is the reason you have seen work already carried out.

The road closures have been advertised (see separate attachment for ease) and it is anticipated that when work starts, the project will take 8 – 12 weeks to complete. **The most significant challenges will be the temporary closure of the Avonwick Road, on which the new roundabout will sit**, and the Ladywell Farm road (at its western end), as it is simply too narrow to allow cars to try and use it as a diversion.

The intention is that the field on the right (driving from Ugborough) will have site offices and associated works but will ultimately be planted out as wet woodland.

It is anticipated that works will commence imminently (within weeks).