

Little Abington Parish Council – County Council Report June 2017

Devolution

We now have an elected Mayor, we have yet to see what this is going to mean in terms of responsibilities and practical politics but what we can see is the Mayor's plan for his first 100 days in office. It is more than ambitious but I attach a copy and will leave it to you to judge.

This new mayoral position that was created has to be part funded from County Council funds, they also have to give up key strategic powers to the Mayor, such as some infrastructure responsibilities, making some of us question why we have both a Mayor and a County Council...

Control

Given the disappearance of UKIP at the County Council in the local elections last month the Conservative Party has now taken control of the County Council, with one exception, no Councillor from an opposition party has appointed to any post within the authority, meaning that we might see a loss of democracy at the County over the next 4 years, but watch this space.

City Deal

The City Deal presses on, this week we have two A1307 workshops at LVC which Linton Parish Council are invited to and one next week at Netherhall school. Each workshop identifies a different element of the road and it's important to engage with these as they do take parishioners views on board.

Council Services

The County has been and is continuing to shed services that it isn't legally required to provide. This year it stopped providing transport assistance for 16-18 year olds even though they have to be in education or training, the sixth form colleges in the area have reported a lower intake from less affluent areas.

Highways

There are Highways open days coming up, these are extremely useful for PC's to go and see how the department operates and also to meet the officers that actually make these decisions, if you are able to attend one of the slots, I'd recommend you do this. Incidentally, I've been appointed to the Highways Committee at the County Council, so any issues that need to be raised, please do ask. Also, the LHI scheme is opening again this summer with bids for local improvements to be submitted by September, so it might be an idea to consider which schemes you'd like to bid for now and to approach the Highways officer for advice on the application and what is likely to be accepted.