

## Upper Rissington Annual Parish Meeting

Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> May 2019

### District Councillors Report for May 2018 – April 2019

- The CDC announced no increase in their Council Tax for the year to April 2019. For the first time in 9 years the tax was increased for the current year by 2%. All other years back to 2011 there was either a nil increase or reduction of 5% in 2013, 3% in 2014 & 5% in 2015. That said the CDC's element represents only 7.5% of your total bill.
- In June the 2011 - 31 Local Plan was approved by the Government Inspector and formally ratified along with the introduction of Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) on 3<sup>rd</sup> August last year.
- I have been working on a major new car park project in Cirencester that will see up to 350 additional spaces within the year. These will be in a decked car park on the Waterloo and level parking for season ticket users at the Rugby Club. Other proposals are also being worked up, including 250 spaces at the Old Kennels on the edge of the Bathurst estate. All of which will help people who work in Cirencester or wish to go into town for leisure and shopping.
- I have been able to secure monies from the CDC Youth Activities Fund with £1,000 in 2017 - 18 and £1,000 for 2018 – 19. This has gone to World Jungle who put on a number of events over the summer for children from the four Rissington villages at Upper Rissington. Additionally I have been able to raise this year £1,000 for the Upper Rissington Scouts. Capital funding from the CDC Community Projects Fund has also been achieved for the £25,000 2<sup>nd</sup> phase of the new play equipment in the village play area. As from May Councillors will have an annual allowance of £2,500 for funding small projects during the year. Underspent monies will accumulate in a central fund to help with more ambitious projects in the future.
- The most obvious planning matters that took place over the last 12 months was the formalisation of the Public Open Space delivery by Linden & Bovis based upon the 2013 outline consent. While the legalities of application **17/04151/FUL** have been agreed in principal no Decision Notice will be posted until such time as the developers provide full and detailed drawings, reports and samples of every element. An important part of this includes verifying the eradication of matters concerning contamination that might still remain within the Victory Fields element of Upper Rissington. Your new Councillor will need to get his feet firmly under the desk on this one. Its complex and he will need to learn a lot before being able to provide advice. Lastly on this subject I was able to lobby and get a designated water supply and vehicle access to the proposed new allotments, which would otherwise been without water and pedestrian access only.
- Other planning matters include the withdrawal of the Delfin Way application for 24 new houses and 2 B1 buildings either side of the shops. This was principally because they were failing to show sufficient commercial space which would have conflicted with the new Local Plan. I suspect that a fresh application will come in before too long. The application for 26 new houses between Sandy Lane Court & Southgate Court is agreed in principal and the developers are finalising detailed reports and studies before formalisation. Construction will then probably start within the next 6 months or so. In total there were 17 fresh application over the period of May 2018 to April 2019.

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