

Report from Cllr Barbara Gibbs April 2018

I would like to thank all of you who voted for me in last May's County Council elections and all of you who gave your time and energy to help in both in distributing literature and canvassing. I will continue to work hard to try to ensure that local services are the best they can be.

The most frequent topic that is in my County post bag continues to be the state of the roads so this short report will focus on this.

I spent a lengthy meeting in February with the roads asset team. They have a budget to maintain the major roads to try to ensure that they do not deteriorate further and then about £3 million a year for the whole County to repair all the minor and residential roads. There is a back log of work needing to be done of £170 million. Here in the Gerrards Cross division we get about £150K per year of the £3 million which means that about one side road a year can be properly repaired. In addition there is a budget for repairing dangerous potholes.

With this in mind although our LAT (local area technician) does visit regularly we need to help by letting the appropriate people know if there are potholes of a minimum of the following

- 40mm deep
- 300mm across and
- Straight edged (take the wall of a tyre out)

The phone numbers to call are

From 9 to 5 Mon to Fri 01294 382 416

and out of hours 01296 486 630

or use the website www.transportforbucks.net

It's worth reporting 'in your opinion' dangerous potholes as well as the LAT will come and look and may be able to remedy the situation even if the pothole does not quite fulfil the above criteria.

To put this spending into context you may be aware 80p in every pound of Council Tax is spent on the care vulnerable adults and children (65p in the pound on Adult

Social Care and 15p on Children). The other 20% has to cover everything else for which the County has a responsibility including amongst others Education and Road maintenance.

With my District hat on again thank you for all your continuing support.

As you know SBDC has been very successfully amalgamating some of its services with Chiltern District Council. It is a joint venture between the two Councils. This is being done to rationalise without affecting frontline services. Providing services more efficiently must always be a good idea and of course results in better use of your Council Tax. The grant from Government to run Councils continues to be reduced so in order to maintain frontline services efficiencies are a necessity.

As you are also aware the SBDC Local Plan is currently being produced, and as you would expect addressing all the requirements of Central Government. This exercise is carried out on a five year cycle and is a statutory duty. It provides the blue print for the strategic development of the area and is consulted on at stages throughout its production so you have your chance to comment.

With very best wishes for a happy and peaceful year ahead.

Barbara Gibbs

Councillor BCC

Councillor SBDC

Cabinet member SBDC for Resources