

Kings Langley annual County report -2021

Any report this year must touch on Covid; my heart goes out to all those with loved ones in care settings including those with learning disabilities. It has been a difficult year. Visiting is now improving, and we thank all care staff and the NHS for the service they have provided for so long now.

The vaccination programme is going well with some 670,000 people vaccinated across Hertfordshire and West Essex. The infection rate in Dacorum is now down to 16/100k, a huge reduction.

There is a backlog of NHS elective surgery and health issues to deal with, although Cancer services have been kept going throughout. We are all grateful to our local Doctors, pharmacists and nurses.

A big thank you to the voluntary sector who stepped up this year to support so many during the pandemic, HCC supports over 80 organisations a year to help residents stay connected, active and independent. The 120,000 food parcels packed by volunteers as well as medicines and dogs walked of our shielded is testimony to that strength.

Watford hospital has plans to rebuild with a big £500m plus budget, this is their preferred route although many in Dacorum wished for a new build on an open, flat site. We have tried.

MOTO would be a disaster; the Secretary of State has been warned and Mike Penning responding to Cllr Alan Anderson has objected to the Local Government minister.

This has been a good year for Highways programmes with work on roads and pavements all around the village, including in Rucklers lane, London Road and Love Lane. Next year Vicarage Lane and through to the centre of Chipperfield will be resurfaced with patching already progressed. After the elections the County Councillor for Kings Langley will have £360k to spend on Highways across the villages over the next 4 years and 40k for community groups. Its never too soon to think about planning for the future.

This year a study by Ove Arup has made some creative suggestions for the High Street which must address a constricted flow at the top of the high street, parking and most important a great High street experience for residents. There are also calls for better, safer access for cyclists between towns.

I am indebted to Caroline, Robin and many others in the day to day running of the library and will be supportive of any plans that come forward to improve the building.

County has set a budget for 2021/2 which recognises that it rains a lot and that we need additional resource to tackle drainage and flooding issues. An extra £10m is set aside for this. Unclassified roads have been a priority, but the improvement programme will continue for another 2 years.

20 mph schemes have been asked for in many towns and villages and I support the £7m set aside to support them, where they are wanted.

My thanks as always to the Parish Council and the Borough Councillors, both Alan's, without whom I wouldn't dream of consulting on anything that involves the village. This is another reason I am so supportive of the village plan.

I am currently responsible for adult social care and in that capacity pushed for an additional £2m for the Voluntary sector to support residents as we come out of the worst of the pandemic lockdown.

My thanks, County Councillor Richard Roberts.