

Notes From The Annual Meeting Of The Electorate

2nd March 2020

Apologies: Cllr Bembe, Cllr Bryson, Joy Morrissey MP, Andy Fryatt (Iver Heath Tennis Club), Sylvie Lowe (Seniors Coffee Group)

1) Presentation from Steve Bambrick CEO SBDC on the new Buckinghamshire Council

From 1 April 2020, a single new Buckinghamshire Council will replace:

- Aylesbury Vale District Council
- Buckinghamshire County Council
- Chiltern District Council
- South Bucks District Council
- Wycombe District Council

The Shadow Executive is a temporary body to oversee the creation of the new Buckinghamshire Council and consists of 17 members: eight from the four district councils, eight from the County Council and a leader.

The group brings together members from across the five councils to work together to create and make the smooth transition to the new Buckinghamshire Council by 1 April 2020.

The new Unitary council will consist of 147 Councillors to replace the current 202 current members after the elections which take place on May 7th. The new HQ offices for Buckinghamshire council will be at Aylesbury and the current buildings which housed district councils will continue to operate as satellite offices to the newly formed council for the benefit of the areas they previously served. There is a three year transformation period during which BCC staff will be TUPE'd over to the new Authority to protect resident and partner services with as little disruption as possible. A review of management positions will be undertaken in the transformation period to ensure there are no role duplications. If residents are not satisfied with the performance of the new unitary council, they will have the opportunity to voice this dissatisfaction by voting them out in three years' time.

The new unitary council has a budget of 1 billion which and must deliver savings of 18 million on running costs, a figure they have yet to achieve.

Key priorities have been identified as: affordable housing; homelessness; climate change and devolved services.

2) Questions & Comments The Public:

Tony Brown (Resident) - expressed his dis-satisfaction that Aylesbury had been selected for the location of the HQ of the new Buckinghamshire Council, he remarked that South Bucks District Council had been formed to give a voice to South Bucks and that decisions are now made at Aylesbury affecting the South with no consequences.

Steve Bambrick (SBDC) replied that he could not offer any reassurances and that the elected members locally would lend their weight to decisions and be heard, if they are underperforming, residents have the ability to vote them out in three years and vote in new representatives who can deliver a voice for local concerns at county level.

Ciaran Beary (Resident) expressed his opinion that the move to Unitary was a negative decision and feared there would be no voice heard at County level for The Ivers. He regarded the 2000 response figure on a recent consultation of customer satisfaction carried out by BCC as a farce and accused the new Buckinghamshire Council of hiding in Aylesbury. He further remarked that Iver was a dumping ground for county and that to suggest that environmental concerns are a priority for the new

Buckinghamshire Council considering the identified air quality concerns here in The Ivers was ridiculous.

Steve Bambrick (SBDC) commented that he was not here to defend the decision to go to Unitary he was attending to represent SBDC and whilst he was understanding of the strength of feeling the decision to go to Unitary has been made. He re-stated that those Councillors locally elected to go to unitary have the responsibility of delivering a voice for The Ivers.

Cllr G Bennett (TIPC) commented that he failed to see how both offices and staffing were not being reduced to deliver savings of 18 million as they would be in any other business model and that the ultimate future reduction of staff will mean that service will be reduced and residents will suffer.

Steve Bambrick (SBDC) commented that the reduction of staff will be at management level, the current five CEO's will be reduced from five to one, duplicated management positions will be addressed and the 5,000 current local authority staffing level will be fully reviewed during the three year transformation period.

Cllr G Bennett (TIPC) commented that he believed residents would see considerable golden handshake payoffs made to senior personnel as part of the staff reduction programme at senior level as has happened in the past and that such payments are made from resident's money which he believes to be mis-spent.

Steve Bambrick (SBDC) commented he could not comment on past pay-off programmes.

M Franke (Resident) expressed his disappointment on the poor condition of Langley Park Road which has been scheduled for resurfacing for some years and has not yet to be undertaken by TfB. He also commented on Fly-tipping, advising that TfB claimed they could not clear flytipping on Trenches lane as there is no kerb and therefore out of their area of responsibility. He then went on to say that he and his father had undertaken the clearance of detritus on Trenches Lane to reveal a kerb which was concealed by years of routine maintenance neglect by BCC. He further remarked that the repairs of road surfaces are of a poor standard and that BCC carried out no inspection of the works carried out by third party contractors.

Steve Bambrick (SBDC) commented that he accepted the condition of roads is a major issue and that BCC Highways are aware of the negative feedback from residents on the TfB contract, he went on to say that future savings would be reinvested in services and a marked improvement should be seen in time.

Julie Cook (Resident) requested the ringfencing of devolved services funding for The Ivers.

Steve Bambrick (SBDC) commented that the appetite for devolvement was currently being tested and that some areas expressed little or no interest while others have a major appetite, as a result there is no one size fits all structure, devolvement is under consideration moving forward.

Wood Lane Resident commented that the introduction of charges at Langley Tip has had a knock-on effect on the amount of flytipping locally and how could that be defended? He further questioned the failure in educational services, policing and road repairs and remarked that the lack of funding for routine repair and maintenance would ultimately result in the death of road users. He states he did not want a political answer he wanted an action answer.

Steve Bambrick (SBDC) commented that yes there was a marked increase in flytipping reported since the introduction of charges at Langley Tip and that he would feed back resident's comments. He said that the new BC is to review contracts and will then decide on who will best deliver future services contracts.

Ray Sangster (District Councillor) commented that he had been informed first hand that the TfB contract is not up for review until 2024

Julie Cook (Resident) asked if there was any opportunity to revisit this review date

Ray Sangster (District Councillor) replied no and made his apologies as he had to leave the meeting at 8.50pm

3) Chairman's Annual Report

The Chairman of The Ivers Parish Council delivered the Annual Report (available in full to download on our website www.iverparishcouncil.gov.uk alongside Annual reports submitted by local groups and organisations).

4) Public Participation

Tony Brown (Resident) commented that the condition of the pathway linking Iver to the train station at Richings Park as unacceptable and that lobbying for improvement should be a priority. He also remarked on the historical re-diversion of funding originally allocated by BCC for the cycleway project from Iver to Iver Station to a project in the North of the county with no justification.

Fiona Gill (Resident) enquired about the disabled bays at the Jubilee Pavilion car park and when they were to be marked out, the Chairman advised these works had very recently been completed.

Paul Graham (Resident) commented that the closure of Hollow Hill Lane will put enormous pressure on the road system and requested that Councillors bring pressure to bear to maintain access north to south. The Chairman responded that SBDC and Network Rail reported the closure would have very little impact to residents and no mitigation has been offered even though during the test closure The Ivers was practically gridlocked.

Ted Franke (Resident) enquired if TIPC has access to drain clearance equipment, the Chairman replied no and that drain clearance matters needed to be reported on Fix My Street.

5) Community Awards

Community Awards were presented by the Chairman to the following recipients:

Volunteer Of The Year

Carol Campling

Neighbourhood Project Of The Year

Smartville Richings Park

Voluntary Contribution To The Community

Paul Graham

Outstanding Contribution To The Local Area – People

Sara Adams

Vicki Wheaton

Olivia Mahon

Caron Beary

Outstanding Contribution To The Local Area – Environment

Andy Thomas

Neil Pennie