

WINKLEIGH PARISH COUNCIL MINUTES

Meeting Wednesday 24th July 2019 7.30pm Winkleigh Village Hall

PRESENT:

Cllr Turner (Chair), Findlay (Vice-Chair), Cllr Naylor, Cllr Jacobs, Cllr Hodgson, Cllr Bayley,
Clerk Melanie Bickell, Also Present: County Cllr Saywell, District Cllr Newton, PCSO Sandra Brown

85.19 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllr Turner proposed that WPC approve the absence of Cllr Mercer for personal reasons, seconded by Cllr Bayley, all in favour and Resolved (RR104/07/19)

86.19 NO DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST FROM MEMBERS WERE RECEIVED

87.19 AIRBAND UK – PRESENTATION - guest speaker Anna Tansley, Community Ambassador

Airband UK is 10 years old and based in Worcester with a warehouse on the Winkleigh airfield and getting a larger base in Devon soon as operations are growing, bringing broadband infrastructure to rural Devon, reducing the digital divide by bringing high speed broadband to underprovided rural areas. Airband UK is a partner of Connecting Devon & Somerset, comprised of Devon County Council and Somerset County Council with funding from Dept of Digital Cultural and Media Sport (DCMS). The programme funds us to put in infrastructure, which is separate to BT, so we are an independent network of poles, working very sensitively so the network is 'light on the eye' within the landscape so people don't realise we are nearby. Parts of the Parish is not well served by current broadband with 10 or less than 10mbps and it is those places we are designed to serve. Our technology is fixed wireless and we are trying to get as maximum coverage as possible with as few masts/poles as possible, providing the ability for people to learn, to connect, to access services and facilities and to help build resilient communities, and hope to have superfast broadband by the end of 2020.

For those few residential and business premises we cannot reach, the Government has the rural gigabit programme where they can apply for a voucher for a bespoke solution. <https://gigabitvoucher.culture.gov.uk/> and additional Government voucher schemes are available via <https://airband.co.uk/culture.gov.uk/>

The Standard package on wireless is 40mb download, 10mb upload, unlimited for £24.99 per month on a 12-month contract, £99 to £150 installation cost depending upon location. This will also serve most small businesses

To see if Airband is available for your property, go onto the website www.airband.co.uk and enter your postcode

88.19 ACORN DEVELOPMENT – GREAT WELL PARK UPDATE

Clerk reported that Mr Weeks has failed to respond to the Parish Council or keep his word to attend the last 2 Parish Council meetings to give an update on the pre-application status of the proposed development

89.19 SANDRA BROWN – PCSO

If anyone needs to contact me please feel free to do so 07710 075769 or Sandra.brown@devonandcornwall.pnn.police.uk and I will get back to you when I am on duty and available

2 crimes have been reported over the last month, violence without injury and a theft, which is a 100% increase on last year and 10 incidents compared to 13 the previous year which is a 23% decrease in incidents reported to us. Please continue to use telephone 101 or if you prefer to use the website <https://www.devon-cornwall.police.uk/> which has various reporting options including a chat facility. The PCSO numbers are being cut in 2020 but Torridge will be unchanged with 2 PCSOs, with myself continuing to be abstracted to the Fire Service, there is no hope for immediate improvement for rural patrols and speed enforcement but hopefully in the future there will be an increase in resources

90.19 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

91.19 MINUTES

Cllr Turner proposed that WPC approve the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 26th June 2019 as a true and accurate record, seconded by Cllr Naylor, all in favour and Resolved (RR099/07/19)

92.19 WPC POLICIES ANNUAL REVIEW

Cllr Turner proposed that WPC approve the annual ratification of WPC Complaints Procedure, Confidential Reporting Policy, Press & Media Policy, Social Media Policy and Equality & Diversity Policy, seconded by Cllr Hodgson, 5 in favour, 1 abstention and Resolved (RR101/07/19)

Cllr Findlay to provide suggested amendments for Disciplinary Policy to Clerk for September agenda publication

93.19 FINANCIAL MATTERS

- 93.1. Financial Statement incorporating bank account balances, pre-approved payments, bank transfers, approval of any payments and Bank Reconciliation** (*Doc A03819*) See Appendix A (also available from website/clerk)
Cllr Turner proposed that WPC approve the Financial Statement and bank reconciliation as presented by the RFO for July 2019, seconded by Cllr Findlay, all in favour and Resolved (*RR100/07/19*)
- 93.2. Quarterly budget report** (*Document 039/19*)
No areas of concern, noted See Appendix B (also available from website/clerk)
- 93.3. Financial Accounts Short Notice check**
Completed by Cllrs Findlay and Turner on 17th July 2019, covering 1st May to 30th June Transactions 18 to 49, all in order

94.19 PLANNING MATTERS

- 94.1. Amended planning application 1/0155/2019/FUL, Hollacombe Barn, Hollocombe**, Ms Sarah Beverly, Conversion of agricultural barn to dwelling, Proposed by Cllr Naylor that WPC move to support the application, seconded by Cllr Jacobs, 5 in favour 1 against and Resolved (*RR101/07/19*)
- 94.2. Neighbourhood Plan**
Reminder that the deadline for the consultation document is Monday 29th July 11.45pm

95.19 REPORTS

- 95.1. County Cllr Andrew Saywell**
- 95.1.1.** Having attended the opening of The Winkleigh Fair and events over the weekend I would like to congratulate all those involved in organising it and I appreciate how much hard work goes into the event and thank the Fair committee volunteers and community for a successful fair.
- 95.1.2.** South West Wood Products on Winkleigh Airfield, the planning enforcement officer still trying to source the original planning permission to determine if any enforcement action is required. The result may be that the Company may be able to apply for a certificate of lawfulness if current operations are not in line with current planning permissions and if granted, enforcement will fall back within the court of the Environment Agency regarding noise nuisances and operating hours
- 95.1.3.** The way potholes are reported and looked at has changed. Recently reports would automatically go to the Skanska repair gang without any screening which often resulted in the gangs arriving on the site to find that the defects did not meet safety criteria, could not be located, had already been reported following an inspection or the defect had already been repaired. Pothole gangs are only trained and prepared (with basic traffic management equipment), to repair simple potholes, anything over 2sqm will entail the gang attending and not being able to make the repair and sending it back to their agent for a larger order to be drawn up. As a result, the inspectors will now go out and assess the pothole requirements, mark it up and then the gangs will attend. The new system seems to be working more effectively and will look at filling other smaller unreported potholes within the immediate vicinity or that don't quite meet the criteria but are on the verge of deteriorating into a pothole and will carry out a small patch repair as a preventative measure
- 95.1.4.** All Parishes within Torrington Rural will be invited to a meeting with Highways to discuss local priorities within your Parish. I will be attending an update briefing on the doing what matters project on 7th Aug
- 95.1.5.** Fire Service consultation, I am a member of Devon and Somerset Fire and Rescue Authority, information on the consultation is available on line, please see the link to the summary document the Fire Service is using for the Safer Together Consultation - <http://www.dsfire.gov.uk/SaferTogether/ServiceDeliveryConsultation//documents/Consultationdocument.pdf> There is no threat to closure to any local station in and around the Winkleigh area – the stations earmarked for closure have been identified due to crewing difficulties, in arguably the wrong place, or the profile of the area has changed due to development and demographics and age of those stations. I am happy to hear from you if you have any views. Rural fire coverage could improve if roaming fire appliances are out in the area and looking to do preventative safety visits of businesses and commercial premises as our aim is to prevent a fire in the first place.
- 95.1.6.** The 'FYI' [For your information] consultation about the long-term plan for the NHS in Devon, is being sent out to the parish via DALC and I will also send an email to Parish Clerks
- 95.1.7.** Children services report – See Appendix C (also available on website and from Clerk)
- 95.2. District Cllr Simon Newton**
- 95.2.1.** Torridge District Council have been energised and looking at the climate emergency and the areas surrounding climate emergency. Devon County Council set a target of 2050 to be carbon neutral, TDC have set a target of 2030 to be carbon neutral because the feeling was Devon's date was too relaxed and whilst it is accepted that 2030 may not be achievable, at least we might be 90% achieved. If the Inter-Governmental paper is to be taken seriously, we will have a crisis in 11 years, not in 2050 and the view that was generally accepted in Council was this wasn't a routine matter of consideration and we probably are potentially facing something which is different to anything we have seen anything in our lifetime and may have to react differently or how we routinely react to problems. It is also anticipated that if we make ourselves Carbon Neutral could save a lot of money and doing things in a better way

- 95.2.2.** I am looking at greater empowerment of people within my 2 parishes, making sure that people know how to react and report and get things done, through the proper routes, which are all now online based and this is the most efficient way of reporting. I am looking at pulling together for both parishes a list of all common problems and where to go to get it reported. I will be looking at pulling together the different aspects within Torridge, to enable reports to be made directly to the right place, the first time, there is a much better chance of getting things done. TDC no longer have teams of inspectors/surveyors, roving banksmen looking for problems to fix, the community with the communication of the internet and the evidence gatherer of the mobile phone camera is the modern day reporting agency and we must encourage the community that if they see something to report it and it will get fixed. This may also stretch into unauthorised development particularly in rural areas which TDC are not aware of and goes unreported/enforced
- 95.2.3.** Signage and numbering at Southernhay are now being looked in to by Council officers
- 95.2.4.** Discussions about the sports centre potential for grant funding for an all-weather surface, we have been speaking to the community engagement officer and unfortunately it isn't qualifying for grant funding, but we are engaged there and trying to help
- 95.3. Chair – Cllr Turner**
- 95.3.1. Defective Post Folly Corner** – has been replaced
- 95.3.2. Devon & Somerset Fire and Rescue Service Consultation** – the consultation is deemed too complex to give a council response and members are required to submit individual views
- 95.3.3. Annual Inspection and reports** reminder to all Cllrs to complete prior to Sept Pcm
- 95.3.4. 4 Co-option Vacancies** – 4 vacancies to be filled by co-option, application forms can be obtained from the clerk or downloaded from the Parish Council website
- 95.4. Clerk – Melanie Bickell**
- 95.4.1. Cemetery Bungalow Inspection** - Proposed by Cllr Hodgson that WPC retrospective approve Cllrs Findlay and Turner to attend the Cemetery Bungalow 10th July 2019 to inspect newly fitted kitchen in accordance with Standing Orders, seconded by Cllr Naylor, all in favour and Resolved (RR105/07/19)
Proposed by Cllr Turner that WPC approve the bungalow group to carry out the annual inspection of the bungalow, seconded by Cllr Hodgson, all in favour and Resolved (RR106/07/19)
- 95.4.2. Public Meeting with Geoffrey Cox MP in Winkleigh** To discuss issues within and surrounding the Parish. Amended to Monday 12th August 2018, 3.00-4.30pm, Village Hall.
- 95.4.3. Budgets and Precepts Course** – Proposed by Cllr Findlay that WPC move to approve attendance of Cllr Turner on DALC budgets and precept course 8th October Cheriton Bishop at £20, seconded by Cllr Hodgson, 5 in favour, 1 abstention and Resolved (RR107/07/19) – power for expenditure LA (Members Allowances) (England) Regulations 2003, budget Cllr Expenses
- 95.4.4. Hedge and vegetation cutting** – carried from public period June pcm. It is the landowner's responsibility to cut back any overhanging hedge/vegetation that interferes with the safe use of a public path or highway, by overhanging a highway, road or footpath over which there is a public or private right of way and the overhanging hedgerow obstructs the passage of, or is a danger to, vehicles, pedestrians or horse riders; the hedgerow is dead, diseased, damaged or insecurely rooted and is likely to cause danger by falling on to a highway, road or footpath; or obstructs the view of drivers or the light from a public lamp or is at an inappropriate height (over 2m);. It is an offence to disturb or damage an active bird nest between 1st March and 31st August. (Source Natural England & RSPB) Devon County Council can insist that interfering hedges are cut back and they can be contacted at 08451 551004 / csc.roads@devon.gov.uk
- 95.4.5. Merchant Navy Day 3rd September 2019** – Cllr Jacobs volunteered to raise the flag
- 95.4.6. Airfield Air tower** – Parishioner correspondence “*There is a mobile home on the traffic control tower site. The parish council really need to keep tabs on what is going on there. It surprises me that the unauthorised development taken place on the site in the last 4 years has gone unnoticed.*” Cllrs Naylor and Jacobs reported that they had looked at the site and the mobile home was uninhabited and may even be uninhabitable, with no signs of residency at the moment. The mobile home is within the private compound which is fenced off. Cllrs agreed that this is not an enforcement matter at this time
- 95.4.7. Clerk annual leave** 19th – 30th Aug inclusive
- 95.5. Cllr Verbal Reports not requiring a discussion/resolution**
- 95.5.1. Carbon footprint workshop** – Cllr Jacobs reported that DCC have declared a climate emergency and have a climate impact group chaired by an ex-professor. In 2011 the Government asked Local Authorities to publish their own Greenhouses gases annually (not mandatory)
- Cllr Jacobs to draft an article (to be approved by clerk) for next edition of Distinctly Winkleigh to gain expressions of interest in forming a Parish Forum on carbon foot printing
- 95.5.2. Winkleigh Fair** Cllr Turner requested that a letter to be written to the Winkleigh fair committee thanking them for hard work and well put together Fair

96.19 BUSINESS ITEMS

96.1. Emergency Plan Annual Review

Cllr Turner reported that the current emergency plan was undergoing a major face lifts and community volunteers are needed if we have to enact our emergency plan. It was suggested WPC approach community groups to put people forward to become volunteers, council will maintain ownership, but community groups would be 'on call' should an emergency be declared

Cllr Turner to draft an article (to be approved by clerk) for next edition of Distinctly Winkleigh to gain expressions of interest in volunteering in the event of the Emergency Plan being implemented

96.2. Dog Bin Westcotts Drive

Cllrs Findlay and Turner met with residents of Westcotts Drive to discuss requirements and alternative locations for a dog waste bin and agreed their concerns were valid about the location due to being too close to properties. The bottom entrance grass verge close to where the grit bin is sited was identified as a possible location.

Cllr Turner to carry out a leaflet drop to the houses that overlook that piece of ground to gain feedback

96.3. Damaged Bench Hollocombe

Proposed by Cllr Findlay that WPC move to approve replacing the Hollocombe bench with Sandwick Winawood 2-seater grain effect £259 incl VAT, seconded by cllr Bayley, 4 in favour 2 against and Resolved (RR108/07/19) – Power to incur expenditure - Parish Councils Act 1957 s.1, (Assets purchase budget)

96.4. Street Light Barnstaple Street

Cllr Findlay stated the replacement light was now in situ

96.5. Signage for the Parish

96.5.1. Heritage Signage for Water Pump

Cllrs agreed the inscription for the heritage signage for the water pump.

Clerk to investigate mounting locations and costs and report to September meeting

96.5.2. Gateway Signage

Cllrs Findlay and Turner to attend a meeting with Winkleigh Society to discuss Gateway Signage. Cllrs Jacobs and Naylor are already members of Winkleigh Society so will also be in attendance.

Clerk to contact Winkleigh Society to arrange attendance of Cllrs at a future meeting

96.5.3. Southernhays house number signage

As per Cllr Newtons update, additional house number signage for Southernhays is being looked into by TDC. Clerk thanked Cllr Newton for progressing this matter on behalf of the Parish.

97.19 Public Participation

98.19 Confidential matters (Part II) Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 s1(2)

98.1. Move to Part II Proposed by Cllr Turner to as the following items contains disclosure of time sensitive commercial interests of the council and the persons that have carried out the replacement is not in the public interest
Bungalow Kitchen replacement – to consider inspection report, seconded by Cllr Findlay, all in favour and Resolved (RR109/07/19)

98.2. Return to Public Period

98.3. Proposed by Cllr Bayley that the Clerk write formally to the contractor and give 14 days to remedy all outstanding faults, with failure to do so will resulting in another contractor being appointed and withholding of payment, seconded by Cllr Findlay, all in favour and Resolved (RR110/07/19)

98.4. Proposed by Cllr Turner that Cllr Jacobs purchase and fit metal worktop edging strips for worktops abutting bungalow cooker, seconded by Cllr Findlay, all in favour and Resolved (RR111/07/19)

Cllr Jacobs to purchase and fit metal edging strips

99.19 Date of Next Meetings (Chair)

25th September 2019 Parish Council Meeting Village Hall 7.30pm

21.39pm Chair closed the meeting

APPENDIX A

JULY 2019 FINANCIAL STATEMENT AND MAY BANK RECONILIATION

Meeting date: 24th July 2019

Cash balance £22,921.14 as of 01/07/2019

Reserve	Current	Bungalow
10311.45	5045.84	7563.85

Payments made (pre-authorised) since last meeting 26th June 2019

Pymt Ref	Bank A/C	Amount	Is1Details	Power	Expenditure approval Minutes Ref
PM050/19	Curr - DD	14.00	EDF Electricity to Square	LGA 1972 s111	62.19 RR074/05/19
PM051/19	Curr - STO	210.00	Majestic Trees - Cemetery Maintenance	LGA 1972 s214(6)	62.19 RR074/05/19
PM052/19	Curr - STO	1034.67	Clerk Salary April 2019	LGA 1972 s112	62.19 RR074/05/19
PM053/19	Curr - STO	62.98	Amazon - Asset Purchases (Via clerk) (encrypted USB & Condolence Book)	LGA 1972, s111 & s137	63.19 RR084/05/19 81.2.6.19 RR096/06/19
PM054/19	Curr - Bacs	243.09	Clerk reimbursements June 2019	LGA 1972, s112	63.19 RR084/05/19
PM055/19	Curr - Bacs	73.89	HMRC P4 contributions	LGA 1972, s112	63.19 RR084/05/19
PM056/19	Curr - Bacs	43.94	Argos (via clerk) - Asset Portable hard drive	LGA 1972 s.111	63.19 RR084/05/19
PM057/19	Curr - Bacs	71.86	BT Symantec quarterly Bill (Device Protection x12)	LGA 1972 s.111	61.19 RR073/05/19
PM058/19	Curr - Bacs	49.59	Angela Findlay - Cllr Reimbursements	LGA 1972, s111 Localism Act 2011	20.3.3.19 RR027/02/19 21.5.7.19 RR023/02/19
PM059/19	Curr - Bacs	14.40	Alice Turner - Cllr Reimbursements	LGA 1972 s.111	63.19 RR084/05/19
PM060/19	Curr - Bacs	19.80	Alan Jacobs - Cllr reimbursements	LGA 1972 s.111	63.19 RR084/05/19
PM061/19	Bung - Bacs	123.00	Jad Mottram Plumbing & Heating (Bungalow)	LGA 1972 s.140(1)	63.19 RR084/05/19
PM062/19	Curr - Bacs	48.00	DALC Planning Course	LGA 1972 s.111	20.3.3.19 RR027/02/19
		£2,005.22			

RECEIPTS SINCE LAST PCM 26th June 2019

Payment ref	Pymt method	Details	Amount
RC011/19	100380	Interment Fee Cemetery	£660.00
RC012/19	Bacs	Pure Lettings Bungalow Rental July	£480.49
RC013/19	Bacs	Interest Reserve account 31st May	£1.61
RC014/19	Bacs	Interest Reserve account 28th June	£1.37
RC015/19	Bacs	HMRC 1 st quarter reclaim	£623.15
			£1,766.62

Reserves Account Balance	Amount	Details	BALANCE = WPC CONTINGENCY
10311.45	-1000.00	Earmarked Election accrual	
	-1351.00	Restricted - NP Grant	
	-140.00	Restricted - TAP Fund project 2015-16 (booklet re-printing)	
	-219.12	Restricted - Parish Signage	
	-413.02	Restricted - P3 Pathways Partnership (Footpath maintenance)	
			£7,188.31

BUNGALOW ACCOUNT Balance B/Fwd	Amount	Details	CURRENT BALANCE
7083.36	-123.00	Jad Mottram – Boiler Service	
	480.49	Rental income minus letting fees June	
Budget	Balance	Bank Balance	7440.85
650.00	456.77	RESTRICTED 2019/20 maintenance budget	
500.00	293.76	RESTRICTED balance of 2019/20 Management Fee	
4018.00	734.58	RESTRICTED Precept offset to be transferred to current a/c accrual to date	
6944.79	5955.74	RESTRICTED Contingency accrual for works	
	7440.85		

**WINKLEIGH PARISH COUNCIL BANK RECONCILIATION
Reconciliation date 10/07/2019**

Balance per bank statements as at 1st July 2019:	£	£
Current Account	5045.84	
Bungalow Account	7563.85	
Reserves Account	<u>10311.45</u>	
		<u>22921.14</u>
Less: any unpresented Payments		<u>22921.14</u>
Plus: any unpresented Deposits	<u>0.00</u>	<u>22921.14</u>
Net balances as At 1st July 2019		<u>22921.14</u>

The net balances reconcile to the Cash Book (receipts and payments account) for the year, as follows:

CASH BOOK:

Opening Balance 1 April 2019	20037.81
Add: Receipts in the year to date	19037.02
Less: Payments in the year to date	<u>16153.69</u>
Closing balance per cash book [receipts and payments book] as at 30 th June 2019	<u>22921.14</u>

APPENDIX B

BUDGET HEADS EXPENDITURE	2019-20 Budget			
	Budget	YTD Actual spend	Committed expenditure	Current Expenditure
Staff Costs	14786.00	4159.60		4159.60
Administration	1910.00	1136.64		1136.64
Running Costs	3360.00	56.00		56.00
Professional fees	965.00	194.80		194.80
Assets Maintenance & Purchases	1000.00	0.00		0.00
Grants/Donations	5275.00	5200.00		5200.00
Bungalow	2150.00	1852.66		1852.66
Winkleigh Gateway Signage & Contingency	2000.00	0.00		0.00
Cemetery Rates & Grounds Maintenance	3470.00	1159.63		1159.63
TOTAL	34916.00	13759.33	0.00	13759.33

INCOME	2019-20			
	Budget	YTD	Known future income	Current Income
Precept	27236.00	13618.00		13618.00
Other/Interest	12.00	4.75		4.75
Grants	0.00			0.00
Bungalow Rent	6168.00	2048.20		2048.20
Cemetery Fees	1500.00	1100.00		1100.00
TOTAL	34916.00	16770.95	0.00	16770.95

APPENDIX C

Children's Services & Schools Winkleigh Parish Council Meeting 24th July 2019 Children's Services

DCC have about 764 children in care and are continually assessing high cost placements and making sure we are doing the best for children at a reasonable cost. We are looking how we can use Early Help to keep children in their families. It's important to do this, working with families and children to prevent where possible, children coming into care. It's particularly important with Teenagers, who don't have good outcomes when they come into care.

The Cabinet Member for Children's Services and Schools, Cllr James McInnes, has visited many of the teams across Devon. Both front line social workers and those involved in Early Help. The system is very busy as always and Constructive challenge between professionals is growing.

Foster Carer Allowances

A new Allowance System incorporating suggestions from Children's Scrutiny Committee (which I sit on) was approved by the DCC Cabinet and went 'live' on the 21st January 2019.

Feedback I am aware of has been favourable – the new system is much simplified from the previous complex system that existed before and is about paying Foster Carers/Parents on the needs of the child they are looking after. Under the old 'tiered' system it was essentially based on the experience of the Foster Carer which did lead to situations where Foster Carers on a lower tier were paid less for looking after a child with complex needs compared with a Carer on a higher tier looking after a child with lower needs.

School Funding

The campaign for school funding continues. Following on from the F40 MPs briefing, the three Vic Chairs of F40 (Laura Smith MP, Sir Gary Streeter MP, and Layla Moran MP) wrote to the Chancellor, setting out the case for more school funding. This letter was signed by nearly a hundred MPs and got national news coverage.

The F40 a group of Local Authorities that receive less funding per pupil head than the national average and is Chaired by Cllr McInnes.

A Coalition has been announced between F40, ASCL, NAHT, and the NEU. They have agreed that £12.6bn is needed in Education between 2019 and 2022/23. This is a good step forward in presenting government with a joined-up approach to school funding.

The Cabinet Member was due to meet the Secretary of State for Education with Devon School Leaders to explain what is happening in Devon, however that was before the previous incumbent was replaced during the change of Government! The original meeting had been arranged following Cllr McInnes's letter to the Minister and the offer of a meeting. It's important that despite a difficult situation in nation government, we keep the pressure on.

SEND

Following a recent SEND Ofsted/CQC inspection of DCC and the NHS a 'Written Statement of Action' was required. There are four key areas:

- We need to get our Strategic Plan more imbedded, so all partners understand and act on it
- The timeliness of Education and Health Care Plans needs to improve, and they need to be of better quality.
- The Communication with Parents and Carers need to improve.
- Identification of Autism Spectrum Disorder needs to improve.

Intensive work continues in this area and we have submitted our updated response to the WSoA and discussions are continuing with Ofsted. DCC's Cabinet have agreed to extra funding. This is a complex area that covers a wide partnership and Ofsted/CQC will reinspect in about 18 months.

Children's Centres

It's now over a year since the Devon wide Action 4 Children contract started. During the summer I have been visiting Children's Centres and talking to staff and parents. The new contract is more targeted, and staff have adjusted well. I was impressed by their professionalism and dedication. There seems to be better join up between other service, which is encouraging. Now that Public Health Nursing is part of DCC, the challenge going forward is how we can model the services to be even more joined-up.

Cllr Andrew Saywell
Devon County Councillor for Torrington Rural
24th of July 2019