

COTSWOLD DISTRICT COUNCIL

Report by Cllr N J W Parsons

Spring 2019

1. **Finance**

CDC set a budget which increases Council Tax by 2% in line with inflation. Working with neighbouring authorities through the 'not for profit' Company, Publica, the Council has continued to find savings without cutting any services. Publica is owned by Cotswold, West Oxfordshire and Forest of Dean District Councils and Cheltenham Borough Council. The following projects remain within the funded financial plan:

- The New Waterloo Car Park.
- Temporary Car Parking in Cirencester.
- Electric Car Charging, while Green Waste charges remain **frozen and** "Free after 3" Parking will be **extended again**.

Cotswold District Council remains debt free with net assets of over £30 million.

2. **Planning**

The Draft new Local Plan to 2031 has been adopted. For **Syde**, the proposed Local Plan includes a policy to enable small scale local development outside the main towns, provided that it can be accommodated without harm to the countryside and can be shown to be in the best interests of the particular settlement or village.

3. **Waste Services**

New vehicles are being purchased and after extensive consultations a new improved collection system will be introduced in the autumn.

4. **Youth Projects**

The Council is still able to support youth projects for those aged between 11 - 17. Each District ward Councillor has an allocation of £1,000 available. Over the last year some £2,250 has been allocated to the Ermin Ward by borrowing from other Wards.

5. **Community Projects**

The Council has increased the capital allocation available and will continue to support local/community projects with the provision of match funding with other organisations, such as the Heritage Lottery Fund. Within the Cotswolds, this scheme has been particularly useful in the provision of, or repair of, village halls and other community facilities.

6. **1st Word War**

The fund has now closed. The allocations made enabled communities to fund memorial commemorations.

7. **Defibrillators**

Funds remain available to support parishes with the installation of Defibrillators. Within Ermin Ward we have already used the initial allocation of £2,000, but further applications may succeed if pooled funds remain available.

N J W Parsons

Ward Councillor, Ermin Ward