



## **Barry Stone - County Councillor for the Loddon Division**

### **Parish Council Report – July 2017**

#### **Key Issues this month**

#### **Local Member Highways Budget**

##### **Background**

A new fund has been created to provide each local Member with an annual budget of £6,000 to be used on highway work within each financial year. This offers flexibility to progress small highway projects at Members discretion based upon local need.

##### **What can the money be spent on?**

The funding can be spent on a wide variety of highway related aspects. Typical uses could include:

- Advisory signs i.e. “Unsuitable for HGV’s and advisory speed limits i.e. 20mph signs outside schools would be possible.
- Small footway extensions and modifications
- More significant work to public rights of way
- Minor drainage work
- New non-regulatory signs and replacement of existing signs and road markings. Possibly some new road markings such as “SLOW”.
- Feasibility work or investigations that cannot be resourced by existing front line budgets.
- Minor traffic management projects including Traffic Regulation Order related works. However, it should be noted that these works can cost between £3,000 and £5,000 each and may be difficult to deliver within a 12-month timescale.
- Day rates for gangs to carry out additional maintenance to areas of the highways that a local Member would like improved i.e. public footpaths or verges.
- Other highway improvements – improved visibility splays, junction improvements, kerbing, work in conservation areas.

- Capital grants to parish councils for highway maintenance related equipment such as grass cutting or footway gritting equipment.

**What is excluded from the fund?**

Illuminated signs, street lighting or reflective bollards are not included in this initiative. This aligns with NCC energy saving objective of 50% by 2020, based on 2007 baseline.

In addition, the budget of £6,000 is not to be exceeded. Any schemes which are likely to exceed this amount will not be taken forward, unless other funding streams are confirmed.

**Who can help provide advice on what can be delivered and how?**

Your local Highways Area team can provide the necessary help and advice on what the engineering solutions to any given problem may be. These options will be location specific and will usually involve a site visit to fully understand the issues and identify the optimum solution.

**Who records and monitors spend?**

Your local Highways Area team will provide an initial cost estimate and if delivery is agreed, will then monitor construction / installation costs. Given the nature of construction, there may be unexpected or unforeseen costs which will need to be managed within the £6,000 allocation.