

County Councillors Report for March/April

From County Councillor Bill Crooks

Budget Meeting

It is three meetings since my last report on Full Council. This month everything concentrated 90% on setting the budget. The increase was set at 4.99% which equals £67 per household at band D. The Fire and Rescue increase is 2% and the Police & Crime Commissioner is £15 across the board.

3% of the rise for the County Council is for community care which will bring in £9.3m

Rural Development Board

At a meeting of the Rural Development Board the only item discussed was an application for a poultry farm in the Harborough Area.

Adults & Communities Committee

The item of interest for me was the proposals for the 'Trees' care home in Hinckley, which is proposed to be a venue for short breaks. This will give the County Council three specialist sites, and with the 12 beds in Hinckley it will bring the total to 24 beds in all. (There are currently 17 people who access this service). The 'Trees' has been shut for a total refurbish. This will not cost anything as they will use existing staff. We were also advised there are 171 care homes in Leicestershire which equals 95 residential care homes for older adults, 31 nursing care homes and 45 care homes for working age adults including those supporting people with mental health, hearing disability, physical disability and sensory impairment. There were 564 admissions, 218 funded by the County, and the total predicted for the year was 800 which is down on last year's figures which was 890 (the 3rd reduction in three years), being 958 in 2017/18. There are 8 care homes which are currently rated as inadequate and with the advice from the County improvements to these are ongoing. The County fund care homes on a monthly basis to meet additional costs caused by the Covid-19 pandemic which includes PPE costs of £1.8m. Infection control to care homes costs £3.5m which is a Government grant and is predicted to cost £5m leaving a large shortfall.

Museums & Libraries

Councillors received a report on the five museums in Leicestershire. Part of this covers the Bosworth Battlefield collection housed at the battlefield site. The collection contains material associated with the Battle of Bosworth and some 5000 artifacts collected during the Battlefield survey and items from a regionally Important Roman Temple discovered at this time.

Other briefings consisted of Mental Health, Communities, and the weekly Covid update.

No other meetings have been held since I wrote this report.

Regards

Bill