

Cllr Ian Morris SNC

Annual Report 2014-15

This my Last annual report before the Election in May. I have to say that it has been a privilege and pleasure to serve the Village for the last four years and if I am lucky enough to be re-elected as your District Councillor I hope to continue to do so for another four years.

I have worked hard for the Village for the last four years and although we have achieved a lot together there are still a number of things I would like to see through to completion and I make no apology for starting with these in my report.

The first of these the Flood Alleviation works for Wales Street. As many of you will know this has been an ongoing issue for the last four years and for many years before that. I think that we are now within touching distance of seeing these works completed. The problem, as all those involved will know, is funding. Although the scheme was initially funded by the Environment Agency, the District Council and the Parish Council there is likely to be a significant funding shortfall. As I write this I do not yet know what that figure is but it is likely to be in the region of £200k. I cannot really go into too much detail as to how this finding shortfall will be made up but I am confident that the money will be found and that this work will proceed to completion later in the year.

Regarding the proposed extension to the Car Park at the Station. It appeared that things had fatally stalled when it looked likely that the costs of the Car Park Extension would exceed £200/ £250k. Working with the Parish Council, South Northants Council and Northamptonshire County Council, Chiltern Railways and the two County Enterprise Partnerships as well as the landowners, I am confident that a project can be pulled together. Northamptonshire County Council has £70k in their budget for the next year to help with this project. If further funding can be found from some of the other involved parties I am confident that we can get to the figures we need. The new car park would alleviate some of the parking problems around the station and hopefully encourage more people from outside the village to use it, preventing any further cutting of services from the timetable in the future.

The threat of large scale development has hung over the village for the last few years and I am determined to fight any attempts for any further large scale schemes. This fight should be helped by the fact that the District now has a robust five year housing land supply. King's Sutton has taken its fair share and other than small scale infilling within the village should not take any more.

I do have to also mention the New Homes Bonus. This is a formula by which the Government pays a certain amount per new Dwelling to the Local Authority in which the property is built. A significant amount of this is being set aside for each of the villages that have seen development. If the regime continues after the Election in May then this could

amount to a significant amount for the village of King's Sutton. At the moment there is £14k set aside for the Village but this will increase significantly if the New Homes Bonus regime continues after the election. Applications for these funds can be made by anyone in the village to the Grants Panel and as long as the project is for the overall benefit of the Village and the villagers it is likely to be granted.

Anyone from the village that visits Towcester from time to time might have noticed the new Civic building at Moat Lane going up. I am pleased to announce that the building is now completed and the move in took place over the Easter Bank Holiday weekend. I would encourage you all to visit as it really is state of the Art and contains an impressive new Library facility and well as the Registrar's Office which will continue to operate on the same hours as the previous building. The building was completed on time and on budget and will produce significant savings for the Council in the future.

Residents in King's Sutton will see no increase in the portion of the Council Tax that goes to SNC for a fifth consecutive year. This is despite the fact that the money the Authority receives from Government is reducing year on year and it is only by introducing innovative ways of working such as sharing services with other Authorities that makes this possible. The joint working with Cherwell and Stratford has produced significant savings to all the Authorities already and will continue to do so going forward.

If anyone wants to contact me please call me on 07710198272 or e-mail me on ian@hemingfordproperties.co.uk You can also follow me on twitter Cllr Ian Morris @aussielover100 If you want to talk to me in person I am usually at the Coffee Morning at the Millennium Hall on a Friday.

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