

COUNTY COUNCILLOR REPORT – PHIL BAILEY

Please do give my apologies for the next meeting.

The one item I wanted to raise at the meeting was the continued budgets cuts and the threats to services.

As you may be aware there is £98m budget gap running up to April 2017.

Various consultations are ongoing to gauge opinion on the areas for cuts.

Specifically, from 2 November 2015, residents will be invited to have their say on two issues:

- the County Council's Library Strategy <<http://www3.hants.gov.uk/library/library-about/library-strategy.htm>> (ends 16 January 2016); and
- the future of some highway maintenance services <<http://www3.hants.gov.uk/highwaysconsultation>> (ends 11 December 2015).

(Residents will be encouraged to respond online on the County Council's webpages, and via paper questionnaires. Copies of the Library consultation will also be available in all Hampshire libraries.)

The above links should work - but I am sure the County will be writing out to all Parish Councils anyway.

I am all in favour of consulting but somewhat cynical about how these results are interpreted or used at a later date. ie if they then say x% of residents were in favour of certain cuts - whereas they probably would not have liked them at all, but that is not an option! Also there is sometimes a bias in which type of people tend to respond to these surveys and what services they may or may not value.

10 November 2015