

Report for Shalden's APM, 2022

First, a brief word on finance. Council Tax charged by HCC and EHDC is up 2% for the coming year plus another 1% for the so called adult social care portion, which is shown separately. Truth is that over 50% of council tax goes on adult social care and nearer 70% if one includes children's social care as well.

The Government promises NHI increase may ease matters in this area after the first 2 years of providing 'back to normal support' for the NHS but this is a bit iffy!

The levelling up agenda is fraught with complexities and will be a long drawn out business.

A recent survey suggests that Hampshire's 5500 miles of roads need spending of £380 million to get the network into a half decent state, as it is we can only spend some £80 million a year on maintenance which is just patching a leaky bucket.

With further cuts in central government grant over the next two years and with the need to maintain social care spending, the County Council must find another £70 million of cuts from elsewhere, which now makes 14 years of continuing rate support grant reductions! Other services are bound to suffer.

Shalden matters:

- Thanks to all those who helped to defeat the Alton Giant Incinerator Application - but an appeal may be made to the Planning Inspectorate.
- Signage for Upper Anstey Lane has been improved re the 'no entry bar access' restriction.
- The Golden Pot Crossroads build out is in hand.
- The Avenue traffic calming lining has been met, by and large, with approval.
- The Humbly Grove Liaison Panel has not met for the last 2 years and I shall push for it to start up again.
- The constant battle to get Shalden's fair share of highways expenditure for our potholes etc continues - a never ending battle it seems!"

Kind regards,

Mark KG

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