

**County Council Update
from County Cllr Anne Wight
January 2019**

Bucks County Council Christmas Present Appeal

I would like to say a big thank you to residents who donated presents for the BCC Christmas present appeal in December. The appeal was a huge success and the appeal saw approximately two thousand Christmas presents amassed for local disadvantaged children, young people and care leavers. The presents were donated by County Council staff, local residents and community groups from across the county, from Buckingham to Iver and were handed out to support disadvantaged families who will have little or nothing under the tree on Christmas morning.

Paul Irwin, Deputy Cabinet Member for Transportation, who has jointly led the appeal with Mark Shaw, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Transportation, has been overwhelmed by the response to the appeal. Paul said: "Once again, our Council staff together with local people and community groups have gone the extra mile to support the appeal. People's generosity has been really incredible.

"I've witnessed first-hand the response from our social workers, who are thrilled to be able to take some presents to give to the children they are working with. Thank you to everyone who has donated a gift and made this possible."

Warren Whyte, Cabinet Member for Children's Services, said: "On behalf of our social care teams I would like to say a heartfelt thank you to everyone who donated a present to our appeal. Your generosity and kindness towards local children and young people who are in difficult circumstances is absolutely

outstanding and really does embody the spirit of Christmas.

“Our social workers have a very hard job - on behalf of the County Council I would like to say thank you and wish them all a happy Christmas.”

Once again, many thanks to residents who were so kind and who helped to make this appeal a resounding success!

Dagnall Community Playground

I have applied to use my Leadership Fund towards the Dagnall Community Playground this year. I have been told by our BCC admin officers that the application is being processed and I will report back once the funds have been conferred. I feel that the Dagnall Community Playground is a very worthwhile cause and am happy to be able to contribute my full funding towards providing new play equipment for the children so that families can enjoy a sense of community and the kids can play safely.

Anglian Water Works on B488 and B489 Junction

I have been informed by TfB that Anglian Water has been in touch regarding the water works required on the junction of the B488 and B489. As you may recall, these works have been delayed several months in part due to concerns about worker safety and in part due to TfB not wishing to overly inconvenience residents with additional diversions while the Pitstone sewer works are being carried out.

Although it was hoped that the works might be delayed until July, due to the Pitstone works finishing near the end of February, they are now being brought forward due to water quality issues. There will be a road closure in place from 6th – 18th April, with the closure being lifted on 18th April so that the area is open for Good Friday on the 19th and during the school holidays.

Anglian Water will be contacting Ivinghoe Parish Council directly to provide further details in the coming weeks.

The Brownlow Bridge

TfB met last week with the Deputy Cabinet Member for Transport, Paul Irwin, to discuss the recommendation by Canal and River Trust of an 18 tonne weight limit on the Brownlow Bridge. At that meeting it was decided to place a Temporary TRO on the bridge with a weight limit of 18 tonnes for approximately six months. A risk-based assessment will be undertaken during that period to take account of any traffic impacts as a result of this limit and, specifically, which alternate routes might be used for vehicles over 18 tonnes instead. For the longer term, decision-making will focus on the combination of health and safety, environmental factors, and freight strategy issues. TfB hopes to be able to brief parishes on this further at the next LAF meeting on 28 February 2019, at 7 pm at Ivinghoe Town Hall.

The Next LAF meeting

The next Local Area Forum meeting will be in Ivinghoe Town Hall on 28 February at 7 pm. We hope to have representatives from TfB to discuss the Brownlow Bridge 18 tonne weight limit, as well as representatives from Luton Airport to give us a presentation on the planned airport expansion.