

REPORT FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR RICHARD SMITH, MVO

TO ALDEBURGH TOWN COUNCIL

8 FEBRUARY, 2016

Your Town Clerk and I have a formal meeting about once every three months. We met on 27th January and went through a number of County issues which affect Aldeburgh. These meetings are useful to us both, I hope, and the next is planned at the end of April.

Last Friday I met with Tim Passmore, Suffolk's Police and Crime Commissioner. He gave me assurances that the part-funded PCSO schemes which operate throughout Suffolk would continue for at least another year, and that he regards them favourably and wants to see them continue past that date. I hope this provides some assurance to the Town Council as it will mean the continuing presence of at least one PCSO in the town and that parking enforcement measures will continue. Future arrangements about who will be responsible for issuing parking tickets is on-going and no imminent change is now planned. I would hazard a guess that Suffolk Coastal District Council may, in time, take over these responsibilities but I do not know this to be the case, just that I understand the County Council does not wish to assume this responsibility.

I have talked to you on a number of occasions about the County's budget-setting timetable, and this comes to its final stage with a decision at Full Council this Thursday afternoon.

To mark H.M. The Queen's 90th birthday and its official celebrations in June I am offering each of the Council's I represent a small grant of £250 from my Locality Fund to go towards the costs of whatever you choose to do to mark the occasion. I have completed the paperwork and a confirmatory letter will soon reach the Clerk. I am informed that it can be spent however you wish, except on the costs of food

and drink, and I would hope to be with you to join-in the planned celebrations.

Finally, a little bit about me. I am undergoing knee-replacement surgery next week and will be out-of-action and unable to drive for at least six weeks. After the first ten days or so, I will be able to monitor and respond from home to e-mails and telephone calls, but must offer my apologies for absence from your next Town Council meeting. I aim to send a written report to your 14th March meeting, but I cannot absolutely guarantee that I will be able to do so. I hope to be back in person at the 11th April meeting if all proceeds well. I have cleared completely my diary until early April, and there are many invitations which have been hard to turn down, but after ten years of growing inconvenience and pain from my right knee I am hoping that having it replaced will increase significantly my mobility. I will be seeking re-election in just over a year's time and need to be fit to fight it!