

U3A CURRENT AFFAIRS – JULY 2015 – ADDITIONAL NOTES

Alan Turner, PRTC invited to our meeting:

He started by outlining the areas of responsibility of each Council

- PRTC areas of responsibility are:
 - Local lighting (approx)542 lights
 - Maintenance of parks and flowers beds and surrounding grass
 - Market House and MR Dovecote
- WDC
 - Own a large amount of land and buildings, mainly around HW
 - Sporting facilities
 - Most parks
 - Business rates – although these are set centrally
- BCC
 - Highways, which includes road and footpath maintenance
 - Lighting on main roads
 - Schools
 - Day care provision

Government funding to local councils will be withdrawn from 2016, which means that Councils will have to make up the shortfall.

The Market House is in urgent need to repair and is projected to cost £80,000 - £90,000. Lottery funding is hard to obtain, but LEP (Local Enterprise Partnership) is a good source of contact for EU funding.

Regarding the Local Plan, PRTC expects that the District Council will be in favour of up to 2000 houses being built in the Risborough Area. There will be conditions attached to planning applications: developers will have to pay a % of the building cost upfront to cover the cost of required infrastructure such as schools, surgeries etc. LEP could also be a possible source of funding for infrastructure shortfall.

PRTC is keen to maintain the integrity of the town and plan a review of the Green Belt around Risborough and will try to get the fields around the railway designate as a 'Country Park' for use as 'open sports field'.

PRTC are keen to work with Network rail to further develop the East/West rail link ensuring a train link with Oxford and Milton Keynes. This would be subject to the proviso that trains stop at Princes Risborough.

Alan touched on the issue of HS2 and its impact on our environment. PRTC feel there is little they can do further to raise objections to the project, instead they are concentrating efforts on the increase in heavy goods traffic through the town. It is likely that this could amount to 300 HGVs and 800-900 'lighter' vehicle per day on the A4010 having a disastrous impact on traffic flow as well as wear and tear of our roads.