

Ringwood Town Council Meeting 17th December 2008
– a Report from District Councillor Chris Treleaven

1) District Council Finances and Budget-setting for next year.

Problems of matching income to expenditure whilst aiming to keep Council Tax rises at no more than 3% getting ever more difficult. This is a national problem but particularly so in the South where Government rate support grants are cut back to less than 1% increase whilst inflation/wage rises much more than this. Still want to maintain front-line services, and very reluctant to use reserves. More in January!

2) Nottingham Declaration on Climate Change policies.

Council agreed on December 15th to sign up to the above and thus join the other 90%+ Councils who have already done so. There some misgivings as to whether this is a token gesture, but arguments in favour – particularly relating to the Council's Green Audit work – were persuasive enough to gain acceptance. (Cllr Ford will have more)

3) A31 Traffic Management

Following Cabinet approval of the recommendations put forward (essentially identical to your Town Council resolution at your November Meeting), I have now written appropriately to the Highways Agency.

All District Councillors and your Town Clerk have a copy of this letter.

4) NFDC Core Strategy – National Park response.

The New Forest National Park agreed at their December meeting that, whilst much of our Strategy was supportable, they are objecting to our housing and employment land policies, on the grounds that the numbers proposed are unnecessarily too large. The Inspector will have to decide, as we are not changing this submission Strategy..

(CRT Dec.16th)