

Wellbeing report for Parish Council meeting Tuesday 28 November 2023

From: Elizabeth Grigg

Defibrillator:

Monthly checks confirm that all is status quo with the Kilve defibrillator. Cllr Grigg has had another request for a defibrillator to be installed at Hilltop.

Quantock Foodbank:

Just over £1700 worth of Christmas supplies has been stored at Cllr Grigg's residence, as there is not enough space in the Foodbank premises in Watchet and demands for food are rising exponentially. This took three car loads from the shop to Cllr Grigg's. As stated previously this could not be achieved without the support of Matt Hirst (Kilve Stores) and the generous donations by parishioners from Kilve and Holford. Cllr Grigg is waiting to hear from Marlene Mason (Quantock Foodbank Manager) as to when there is enough room for the supplies. The electrically driven Mobile Pantry is almost completed and ready to be delivered. The major issue of where it can be parked securely (with less risk from vandalism) has eventually been solved. The Pantry obviously has to have access to electrical charging points where it is stored and parked. Several rural village halls do have these insitu, therefore enabling people in these more remote areas, where there is a lack of transport, to have access to supplies.

Just to reiterate people accessing the Foodbank have to have been referred by agencies.

Village Hall:

As per the Kilve News' articles there have been some very successful events, including a well attended Bacon and Bap 'coffee morning' and a Barn Dance. Arrangements are in place for Bingo in January and a Quiz in February. Quiz questions are to see set by some Kilve parishioners. There will be a Mulled Wine and Mince Pie 'coffee morning' on the 23 December. Discussions have begun about a possible Dog Show in the Spring or Summer, maybe using the Christopher Robin field, with permission from the Parish Council (PC), as a venue. The Kilve Calendar Photo Competition has taken place for 2024 - theme 'Your Kilve'. Photos were judged at the free Cheese and Wine annual event in October. The calendar has been completed, printed and ready for sale at £10 each, either at the shop or at events at the Village Hall. To date 40 have been sold.

Three copies of the updated Welcome to Kilve Pack have been distributed to three new families in Kilve (one in Hilltop, one in Sea Lane and one in Millands Lane). As noted previously Cllr Grigg and Jenny Kent (editor of the Kilve News) are in communication regarding new parishioners.

Neighbourhood Watch:

Cllr Grigg continues to send out alerts from Avon and Somerset police including the monthly newsletter. It must be emphasised that email addresses are kept confidential. Cllr Grigg also refers any police issue that comes to her to the police.

Good Neighbours (Contingency Plan):

In the light of recent incidents Cllr Grigg will convene a further Contingency Plan meeting as soon as possible.

Neighbourhood Boards:

Cllr Grigg is on the West Somerset Neighbourhood Board, which looks at how health and social care services are working, since the introduction of Integrated Care Boards (ICB)'s Panels (ICP)'s and Systems (ICS)'s. These are supposed to link into the Local Community Networks (LCN)'s to improve the health and wellbeing of populations. However boundaries do not always match. For example, the majority of parishioners in Kilve access the West Somerset Healthcare Practice (Williton and Watchet Surgeries), which are part of the West Somerset Primary Care (PCN) Network and is funded accordingly. The LCN that Kilve Parish Council (PC) is aligned to takes in Nether Stowey and communities east of that.

Cllr Rosemary Wood has alluded to the budget deficit in West Somerset. There is a budget gap of £100 million. Which has increased by £58 million since February's forecast. This is due to the increasing costs of Social Care Services. Somerset's Executive Director for Recourses has stated that a section 114 notice will be issued unless improvements are made. The Local Government Association has proposed £600 million to boost the Social Care Workforce. However recruitment to this Workforce is a major issue. At present for the whole of West Somerset there is only one Social Worker.

How adult social care is funded

There is no national government budget for adult social care in England. Instead, publicly funded social care is mostly financed through local government revenue. This revenue comes from central government funding from the local government finance settlement and locally raised revenue from business rates, council tax and income from fees and charges. Individual local authorities then determine how much is allocated to social care.

However, in recent years, the Government has provided additional ring-fenced funding to local authorities for social care. This is currently mainly in the form of the social care grant for adult and children's social care from the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC).

Funding pressures

There are several factors which contribute to funding pressures in adult social care, including:

- Demographic pressures: the number of older people (the group most likely to need social care) is rising faster than the population as a whole. There is also increased demand for care from working age adults.
- Pressures on local government finances: the National Audit Office has estimated local government spending power (government funding, council tax and business rates) reduced by 29% in real-terms between 2010/11 and 2021/22.
- Increases in the National Living Wage: The Association of Directors of Adult Social Services (ADASS) has estimated the increase in the national Living Wage from April 2022 will cost councils around £977 million.
- Local authorities report concerns about the increasing costs of care (PDF) and the price of care packages to support people with increasingly complex care needs.

Estimates of the funding required

Estimates of the size of the social care 'funding gap' vary. In an October 2020 report (590KB, PDF), the Health and Social Care Committee said an additional £7bn per year was required by 2023/24, which it described as a "starting point". The Health Foundation has suggested that an additional £14.4 billion a year would be required by 2030/31 to meet future demand, improve access to care, and pay more for care.

In its August 2022 report on the long-term funding of adult social care, the Levelling Up, Housing and Communities Committee described these estimates as "credible" and recommended the Government "urgently needs to allocate more funding to adult social care in the order of several billions each year, at least £7 billion."