

COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT – NOVEMBER 2017

I would like to start by saying how pleasing it was to see so many people at Remembrance Day services this last cold Sunday morning. I attended the services at Warkworth, Amble and Acklington and was moved by all of them.

Work on a proposed traffic and parking plan for Warkworth is nearly ready and I hope it will be available for the December meeting of the Parish Council. Some ideas from the public have been incorporated into the plan and I am hopeful that they will help with the problems of speeding and traffic flow throughout the village. Parking remains a constant issue and if I am honest, I don't think that apart from some small tweaks we can improve it very much.

Acklington school has completed its process of consultation and been through the committee and cabinet stages and the closure has been confirmed for summer next year. The original proposal from the school governors was for it to close at Christmas but fortunately the Scrutiny Committee's recommendation was listened to by the administration and the closure has been delayed as requested by myself and the parents. I am on record as having said that I thought parents were disappointed at the events post J C S C 's amalgamation and that they felt let down by promises that were not kept. I asked for more time for the school and the children to come to terms with what had happened and to close it in the summer rather than Christmas which I feel would be less traumatic for the children involved.

I would like to say that it is very sad to see this village school closing after being a focal point for the village for so long and having always provided good education for its many generations of pupils.

The plans for the development of Amble (which I am sure you have read about) include substantial amounts of money to help with the infrastructure of the town and its hinterland, I am working with the administration and health authorities and other interested bodies to upgrade our services to cope with the increased demand that will be placed on them by the housing boom in the area.

The plans I have been working on for the link road from the 1068 at the Southern edge of Amble to the Acklington Road just west of Robson's Way are nearing fruition, they have been made a condition of the applications, which means it will be constructed, this is the first definite improvement to our infrastructure that I can remember.

I take this opportunity to wish all residents well for the coming season and hope we can all work together to improve our environment and understanding of individual needs and concerns.

Ho Ho Ho from me

Jeff Watson

Available on 07802385367 and by email Jeffrey.watson@northumberland.gov.uk