

## County Councillor Report

Apologies for not being with you this evening but tonight is my last public engagement with Lichfield Garrick Theatre as their deputy Chairman.

On the county front the biggest challenge I have/am facing is that of a charity bike ride organised by Birmingham City Council which involves the closing of various roads in the county for a long periods of the day. The A4133 running from Holt to Droitwich is due to be closed on Sunday September 24<sup>th</sup> from approx. 7.30 am to 4.00pm. The organising company CSM were meant to communicate with every resident affected by this closure but have significantly failed to do so. Thus it is only now that people are realising what is due to happen and how that might affect them.

Perhaps you could let me know your feelings as parish councillors ? Even though the road closure does not affect Hartlebury directly, many of you may well want to use the A4133 on that day to access Droitwich or perhaps the M5 Junction 5. In both cases you will have to find alternative routes. Were you aware of this event ? I suspect few of you were.

In order for the road to be closed the county have to initiate a certain procedure. This they have not done yet as they await responses from residents and businesses affected. If you feel as a Parish that the road closure should not happen then please let me know and I will respond to county accordingly.

On a finishing note tinged with some irony, the independent remuneration panel charged with looking at councillors' allowances recommended a 2% increase for ordinary mortals like me, but a reduction in the amount allowed for IT consumables, including broadband, at just the moment that my broadband costs have increased. The result is a net reduction in my total allowance by some £400! The cabinet members have been awarded an 8% increase by the way. The French have a saying "C'est la vie" which fits the bill rather neatly including the pun.

Peter Tomlinson July 24<sup>th</sup> 2017