**Feedback on Parish Council Training Day in Trowbridge – 15th June 2018**

Following introductions of presenters there were sessions held to cover the following: -

Services provided by NLCC, Scene setting and partnership working. Community recovery in Salisbury, service devolution an asset transfer, information governance, ward boundary reviews, clerks & councillors’ training (inc law quiz), waste & recycling, planning – CIL & PIP, budgeting & importance of reserves.

Some main points from the sessions together with a summary at the end: -

**NLCC** secured funds from the transparency code, they are involved with 50 councils on neighbourhood plans. They work with numerous councils and 100,000 councillors

NLCC provide legal notes , answer legal and financial queries, provide publications and guides for councillors and training and support. They also lobby Central government and look to empower and build capacity and support for councillors.

**Fly tipping** is major issue, bears no relationship to tip availability and there have been 3525 enforcement actions

**Neighbourhood plans** – there are 21 in Wilts and 64 areas have been designated

**Community recovery in Salisbury** was reviewed since the (1st) novichok poisoning – 2 sites were still boarded up and there had been a 80% drop in footfall in the town.

**Service devolution and asset transfer** – covered transfer of assets downwards to town/Parish Councils levels – but without any reduction in rates.

**Information governance** – covered the recent GDPR requirements and need for compliance.

**Ward boundary reviews** – highlighted need for reviews due to mismatch of population/representation (aka RWB South 30% over normal, Ludgershall 30%). Still wish to retain 18 area boards. Review on ward patterns due to start in Aug thro’ Nov 2018. Should be work with parishes to define ‘patterns of communities’. Reviews cannot create/abolish parish boundaries but could divide a parish between wards.

**Clerks/clerks training with law quiz** was an interesting session and proved the need to have a good qualified Perish Clerk with good knowledge of the law.

**Highways** – struggling to cope, certainly after the last winter. A thought that materials may be made available to local communities for self help – but maybe 2020 at the earliest

**Waste recycling**- looked at the environmental and economic value of waste, working towards zero avoidable waste but need changes to behaviour. Wilts have a £35M budget for waste, priorities are: - prevention, reuse & repair, recycle & compost, produce energy from waste, fly tipping/litter response

**Planning – CIL & PIP**. PIP can be used for 1-19 houses, is a 2 stage process – gives a fast start but then goes into normal planning process. Does not bypass normal planning policy. Wilts CC have not received any PIPs todate. CIL staying for the foreseeable future. Revised national Planning Policy Framework due in July.

**Budgeting and Reserves** – Looked at the importance of budgeting, setting the precept and the need for a financial reserve. There was no set amount for a reserve, it’s what deemed appropriate for the Town/Parish Council

**Summary.**

Like most full day training days it was a bit of a ‘curate’s egg’ – some good, some less good. The clerk’s sessions proved the need for good clerk support covering the law – which we have. The budgeting/reserves session was good but we have experienced people on the Parish Council who understand finances who know what’s required.

As we now have a good balanced set of skills on the Parish Council perhaps some of the contents were not immediately useful, they would however have provided a good base to have started with.

For future training days we need to review the sessions being held and determine the need for attendance (aka – if similar sessions were run and the Parish Council members and skills stayed constant).

The full slide deck has been filed on the Parish Council website for detailed review as required. Link is here: -

<https://www.broad-town.co.uk/ParishCouncil/ParishCouncilDocuments/tabid/323/ID/2440/Town-and-Parish-Training-Day--15th-June-2018.aspx>

For the avoidance of doubt the contents of the slides would take precedence over my summary.