**Appendix 1 to Minutes of meeting Wixford Parish Council September 10th 2019**

Report by Cllr. Mark Cargill (Alcester Division and Ward)

**Reserved sites**. This is going through cabinet shortly. We are obliged by Government to have a reserved sites list in the event of losing our 5YHLS or being asked to provide additional overspill housing for say Birmingham or Coventry. This is a backup only in the event that a major site does not come forward (i.e. Long Marston or Gaydon) We are working to ensure that these schemes do come forward within the core strategy timescales. The reserved sites account for 20% of the original allocation of 14600 homes in the plan period.

We do have a 5YHLS (currently 6.25) however that could change quite quickly. There will be a consultation towards the end of the year.

**WCC**. In the midst of a transformation programme that is all about ‘right-sizing’ the authority for the future. This is similar to the transformation programme at SDC and is all about the funding levels expected to be received from Government in the future. As always grant funding is variable however certain grants have already fallen away and others are expected to follow. It could be reasonably expected that government do not know what the future holds for them due to the Brexit issue and if its a hard or soft exit, i.e. funds will have to be reserved for a worst case scenario.

**Cont**: Update on the Medium Term Financial Strategy. Briefing (2/9/19) explains the position of the council regarding its MTFS. Due to the unknowns around government grant funding a 5 year rolling programme has been adopted meaning that estimates can be changed as conditions change. There are an estimated £29m cost savings needed over the plan period from 2020 to 2025 however this is all dependant on the grant from government which will be coming out soon.

Reserves are in good shape and a full programme of works is still intended.

**Cherry Trees Care Home**is the subject of an investigation by the CQC over allegations of abuse of residents. Coventry & Warks did a piece on this last week.

**Climate emergency** agreed both at WCC and SDC. This will have an impact on all residents of the District. Note that this will affect all SDC policy decisions however if there are national policies we want to see changed then we will need to lobby government to make the appropriate changes.

**Rural BroadBand**. Still exploring this however we have very few clubs in our golf bag. We are currently working with BDUK (now changed name to Building Digital UK - the stationary stays the same) and through them BT Openreach. Also we have a couple of Other suppliers that may help us. There is history here with other local authorities who have tried to go it alone and ending up costing he authority money and the leader his job. Reputation damage is a main concern here.

**SDC - Transformation update**

This is progressing with consultants reports being considered on the best way forward.

**Croft Lane Power station update**As of 9/9/19. The applicants are awaiting Highways England’s response to the application. This is expected soon however the application will be judged by the end of October. It is expected to go to committee in November

**A46 update**

The SUA2 scheme is with the planning department although there is an issue as the site is going to appeal. This is not the fault of SDC but Highways England who would not approve the highways scheme proposed (still have not) This meant that SDC had to object to the scheme but now HE are failing to support their objection at appeal. This is an unfortunate position to be in and is the responsibility of HE failing to make a decision.

On the Binton/Billesley cross roads I have held a meeting with the developers who have provided me with supporting evidence of their scheme. I am taking expert advice in how or if I can maintain my opposition to the scheme.