

APM report April 16th 2018

Report from John Townsend – South Northants Council

The only issue to report from the District Council is that the Governments drive for new houses has resulted in South Northants is being told that they are expected to increase the amount of houses being built across South Northants from 250 to 490 per annum. That is a vast increase. In other words it means that over a 10 year period you will need to build a new Brackley. Inevitably it seems to me that means either a new “garden village” or more houses for almost every settlement across the district.

No doubt you will have read that the County Council have properly hit the buffers. An inspector who was called in by the Secretary of State has made a report that makes for sobering reading. I am not in the blame game but I feel it does show how important it is to have Chief Executives and Leading members with a strong grip on Finance.

The Government Inspector is recommending to the Secretary of State that the whole structure of Local Government for Northamptonshire should be rebuilt with 2 Unitary Authorities. That would mean combining South Northants and Daventry District Councils with the Borough of Northampton. My personal opinion is that I think that the whole field of Local Government has changed, in particular with the use of the Internet and computers, and that it is right to move from 2 layers to one. I am less sure of what boundaries we here in Aynho, Eveney and Croughton are best for us. The difficulty with the Inspector’s proposal is that Northampton with its greater population will always politically dominate the new Authority. It will now be for the Secretary of State to decide whether to accept the Inspector’s recommendation. Interesting times!

March 30th 2018