

It is with regret that I am unable to be with you tonight but I am presenting medals at tonight's national cycle event in Salisbury. I want to thank this hard-working Parish council for their hard work throughout the year and the support that they give me. At HQ we continue to make savings due to our central grant being reduced year on year. Last year 29 million and this coming year it will be around 21 million. It's difficult as we are now cutting to the bone but try to maintain front line services. The population of persons over 65 living in Wiltshire now is around a third excluding Swindon. This puts pressure on our budget and you will have noticed a 3% increase in your council tax bill for the better care fund. Hopefully after 2 consecutive years at 3% we should not need to put that increase in next year's budget. We will continue to invest in elderly care, vulnerable children, and at the same time keeping daily services being delivered. The new leisure centre at Pewsey is on time on budget and should be ready to open in the Autumn. At the last area board meeting we gave a grant of £2750 towards the replacement of windows at this hall, and recently we were successful in getting "unsuitable for HGV signs" installed at Ram Alley. We continue to support local projects and as a board will work to keep the community area special. I am available via email and fairly easy to see as my front door is open around 60 hours a week. Thanks again for your support.

Jerry Kunkler