

NEWS

IN BRIEF

Fire service cuts

DEVON and Somerset Fire & Rescue Service has been told it must save more than £5million over the next two years.

The service faces grant cuts of 10.3% in 2013-14 and a further 7.3% in 2014-15.

Proposals on how to make savings will be discussed by fire chiefs on January 18 before a 12-week public consultation.

Cash for scout group

THE 1st Wellington Scout Group has been awarded £750 by the town council to provide web access at the Castle Hall.

A pilot scheme for an online database is being developed by the Scout Association.

Work starts on park bridge repair

WORK to repair a flood-wrecked bridge in a Cullompton park has been given a boost thanks to a £1,000 donation from a Plymouth-based Christian charity.

The Preston Down Trust also pledged hardware and manpower to begin restoring the wooden crossing in the Cullompton Community Association Fields, which was severely damaged by floods at the end of November.

Ashley Wilce, chairman of the CCA, which is tasked with maintaining the 33-acre public open space, accepted a cheque from Stan



STAN Wallis (left) from the Preston Down Trust, hands a cheque to Ashley Wilce, chairman Cullompton Community Association.

Wallis of the trust before a team of volunteers from the organisation got to work on the first phase of rebuilding the pedestrian and vehicular access bridge on Friday.

Last month the CCA warned it may be forced to give up responsibility for the park unless it received additional funding to cover repair and general maintenance costs.

It called upon Cullompton Town Council to raise its share of next year's council tax by £1 per household to fund the upkeep and a consultation will be held with residents this year to determine

whether the increase should go ahead.

Mr Wilce said: "This offer of both financial and practical help from the Preston Down Trust is very welcome but we will still need more money before we can properly fix the bridge. Without it, there will be no town fayre this year.

"There is still much work to be done to ensure that the CCA Fields remain a safe and well kept area where the people of Cullompton can benefit from the open space provided, so let us hope this item of good news will bring forward other offers of help."

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