Fire station drop in consultation questions.

Firstly, you booked this hall in May yet this consultation meeting was not advertised until last Tuesday 3rd July, and then only by email to the booking secretary, do you think this is acceptable?

On 21st March our local area managers and Simon Carrey attended the parish council meeting, Simon stated that there was a budget challenge to save £7.8 million and that due to purdah rules he couldn’t say anything else about it, if you were aware at that time that the station might be at risk, why were you not open and honest about it?

If a kitchen fire occurred now at Chapel row, where would the resources actually come from?

You fail to meet the attendance times that you have set for house fires 24% of the time, how will reducing the available appliances help you to improve this?

On call ( retained) establishment is currently 69% , how good is the staff cover during the day at Modbury, Kingsbridge & Ivybridge, and how vulnerable to change are those figures?

In the last 5 years Kingston has lost over half of its crew, can you state what actions you will take if crew levels at neighbouring stations fall by the same amount?

You propose to carry out extra fire safety checks with the money you save closing our fire station, how many vulnerable elderly people in our area are you intending to visit? I note that you only offer these checks to vulnerable people.

When were the fire hydrants in the station area last tested?

How can you demonstrate that attendance at incidents will not be affected by unusable hydrants?

I know that Kingston fire crew are not always available, how will them being never available affect attendance at incidents in the wider area that they have covered providing support?

Dartmoor for 13 hours in May for instance.

Providing cover at other stations when crew are short?

How many elderly residents are there in Kingston?

What are the true savings you will make by shutting Kingston?

How was the establishment saving figure of £300,000 arrived at?

What hope is there of reversing you proposal to close our station?

When you quote availability of appliances on you local management risk profiles do you deduct the time they are at incidents and not available for immediate turnout?

How far from the quoted figures is the true picture?

The Chief is quoted as saying “ at times 18 fire engines are not available “ how will this figure be affected by station closures and appliance withdrawal?

You have used 5 year averages to show that at peak times you only have 54 appliances in use, what is the largest number of appliances you have had in use at any time in the last 12 months?

Your prolific use of percentages is not quantifiable unless you state what it is a percentage off, 50% of nothing is nothing, 50 % of 100 is 50 greatly different figures.

Your fire authority Chair, Mrs Randel-Johnson keeps stating that society has changed and we are experiencing fewer chimney and chip pan fires, this is correct, how many incidents are caused by phone chargers and faulty tumble dryers? What prevention work are you doing to address this?

How many incidents have occurred at properties where you have carried out fire safety visits?

How often are you revisiting the properties to update advice?

The Infographic does not show Kingstons availability, this has been known since the introduction of Gartan crew management system, Modbury should provide 100% as they are retained and paid to provide cover, yet the only provided 88% and went to 69% of incidents on their fireground.

The information does show that you will never meet your attendance standards for dwelling fires.

What about attendance times for Bigbury On Sea or Ringmore Or Challaborough?

The times quoted for Ivybridge & Kingsbridge are they real run times or based on a perfect clear run at night?

Fire Station, West Devon Support Group – Station Manager, Matt Radford reported the good news that the Kingston Fire Engine is doing well with having the flexibility of attending a “shout” with only 4 members of the crew.  Already the new state of the arc piece of equipment the “Fog Stick” has been used this year at a local fire of bales in a barn.  Last year, 2018 Kingston attended 22 incidents, one of them being the Generator fire at Bigbury On Sea, Matt reported the Kingston crew are a very pro-active team, the support that Kingston provided proved to be very beneficial.  Kingston has also already this year, attended 4 incidents.  With reference to recruitment, Matt expressed concern that very few people are applying for service in the Fire Brigade, recruitment drives for the Service will continue.  Matt Radford introduced Matt Head who will be taking Matt Radford’s place.  Matt Radford also introduced Simon Carrie who will be in charge of the Business/Finance department as there is the budget challenge of saving £7.8 million.  Focus will be placed on 4 areas, it was noted that historically stations are not shut down.  If anyone should express any concerns in this department then Simon Carrie is the person to contact.

Cllr White thanked all three visitors for attending the KPC meeting and their valued reports. Cllr White closed the Open Forum adding that anyone is welcome to remain through the meeting but nofurther comments can be made by the public unless invited by the Chair.  Cllr White thanked all for attending the Open Forum.