

Report for Hadlow Down PC meeting 4<sup>th</sup> August 2020 by Cllr Phil Dixon, Wealden DC

## Covid

Wealden are well into the re-start and recovery phase of Covid. More staff are working in the office and site visits are being undertaken. Leisure centres are all open again from this week. The community hub now receives a very low number of enquires and the demand on the housing department from increased number of homeless is being reduced as those in temporary accommodation are being found permanent accommodation. The Business Grants funds, which have paid out nearly £40m will close at the end of the month.

WDC have been nominated for a national award for its commercial strategy. We have met the challenge of looking for additional income to supplement the councils budget by seeking opportunities which involve investing within Wealden in line with our objectives and provide services which we would expect a local authority to provide, such as crematorium, small house building, regeneration in Hailsham etc. This has also proved to be lower risk investments with good returns.

The Great British Spring Clean, due to take place in the spring, will now take place in September from 11 to 27th.

As regards enforcement, site visits are taking place and action is taken where necessary. WDC does not intervene in normal circumstances to stop work being done when the resident is going to submit an application but the application will be dealt with on its merits and enforcement action will be taken to reinstate the land back to its former state if the application is refused and the planning process is finalised. The landowner will be informed of the risk they are running.