

## **Report from Councillor Dixon for Hadlow Down PC meeting 6<sup>th</sup> October 2020**

### Planning

The consultation on the govt White Paper, 'Planning for the future' closes on 29th October and Wealden are working on a response. The planning policy team are also preparing a brief for the new local plan which will be published for consultation this autumn. This will be a short document which will set out the background to the plan and different options for development. As we are at an early stage in the plan process, we are not so impacted by future changes to the planning system as other authorities, in terms of the work we are undertaking. The call for sites asked for sites to be submitted by 10 August. Those submitted will be published on the Wealden website and will be discussed with parish councils which have been arranged into clusters for this stage of community engagement.

### Community Grants

Local organisations can apply for community grants up to £5000 which are very much aimed at helping them recover from the Covid restrictions and supporting the vulnerable. Consequently the timescales are quite tight. The deadline is 1st November and grants will start to be made in December.

### Covid

Covid numbers in Wealden remain low and the covid hub has not had many enquiries in the past month. Staff are working from home where possible but the offices are open to the public by appointment only. There has been an increase in homeless applications and we have an increased number in emergency accommodation.