

Reports from Cllr Standley and Cllr Dixon for Hadlow Down PC meeting 1st December 2020

1. County Report from Bob Standley to Hadlow Down Parish Council Nov 2020

Covid

Over the last month Covid cases in Wealden have risen. Whilst still below the national average the local number of cases has pushed East Sussex up the tables. Thankfully, the announcement last Thursday that East Sussex was in Tier 2 was “good” news in that Tier 3 would have further increased challenges to local businesses. The County demarcation for tiers has meant that T/Wells has a similar Covid rate as East Sussex but is in Tier 3 because of the large number of cases in East Kent.

As you may have seen in the media the tiers have had the unusual effect in Groombridge. Part is in Kent and the rest in East Sussex so one pub is closed and the other open even though they are close to each other. The boundary has to go somewhere.

Finance

With a further tranche of money from Central Government the gap between Covid Costs and funding has narrowed.

The CSR announced on Wednesday was as expected for one year only. Councils delivering Adult Social Care are permitted to raise an additional precept. As previously reported ASC and Children Services use almost 70% of Council funds.

Road markings

There has been a scrutiny report into Road Markings and support to the extra funding allocated to an extra team. Safety is improved when faded markings are re-freshed.

School Attendance

School attendance varies across the County. The latest figures

Primary 84.2%
Secondary 78.5%
Special Schools 84.7%
Overall Average 81%

The figures for Hadlow Down Primary 95.4% and Uckfield 84.7% are above average.

Free School Meals

Govt confirmed that funding for Holiday meals will be provided for Christmas 2020 right through to Christmas 2021

Pothole Repair Tinkers Lane

Had notification that this repair was below standard and will be re-visited

Finally

Have the best Christmas that is possible!

Bob Dec 2020

2. Report from Cllr Dixon to Hadlow Down Parish Council

The initial local plan document 'Direction of Travel' has been published and the 8 week consultation is live, ending on 18th January. You can respond preferably through the consultation portal or in writing. This is a high level document which details the issues which need to be addressed in developing the plan and offers options for consideration. There is no preferred option at this stage.

We have experienced a significant increase in planning enforcement issues. Please contact me if you are aware of any concerns which are not being resolved.

The waste collection by Biffa has continued to perform well, despite the covid situation, with now less than 100 missed bins a week and very few repeat missed bins. This is an excellent performance considering they have lost over 1000 man hours to self isolation etc and is a massive improvement from the previous contractor.

The benefits team are actively involved in distributing the further covid restrictions grants to businesses which should continue while restrictions are in place.