

## **Reports from Cllr Standley and Cllr Dixon for Hadlow Down PC meeting 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2021**

### **1. County Report from Cllr Standley to Hadlow Down Parish Council February 2021**

#### **Covid**

With another vaccine in the later stages of approval there is scope for optimism. With numbers of infections falling, albeit slowly, news is improving.

The vaccine roll out is being conducted by the NHS and is, so far, on schedule.

#### **Schools**

Schools remain closed except for vulnerable children and those of key workers. Average attendance is slightly above England average at 13.5%

There is no fixed date for the return for all pupils but, given the PM's announcement it certainly won't be before mid- March.

#### **County Clean**

As stated at the SLR County Clean are keen to revert to the proscribed route but need trees to be pruned. Highway Steward is going to identify which trees need pruning and hopefully to expedite the process the Parish will contact local landowners who are probably not aware of the problem. ESCC will enforce if required but will be a slower process.

#### **Budget**

ESCC Cabinet approved a 1.99% increase to go to Full Council later in Feb. This together with increased funding from Govt has meant a balanced budget can be set. To assist with the increasing Adult Social Care budget together councils are permitted to raise CT by an additional 3% over 2 years. The ESCC proposal is to split evenly over 2 years. The combined ASC and General Fund increase will, for a Band D property be an £1 extra.

#### **Carbon Neutral**

ESC Cabinet last week approved the Scrutiny report on the progress to Carbon Zero by 2050, at the latest, and the action plan to deliver that policy.

#### **Highways Contract**

Cabinet also approved the plan for the re -procurement of the Highways contract which needs to be in place by May 1<sup>st</sup> 2023 – seems a long way off but isn't given the size and complexity of the contract .

#### **RWS Feb 2020**

### **2. Report from Cllr Dixon to Hadlow Down Parish Council February 2021**

The Consultation on the Direction of Travel Document closed on 18th January and the policy department will now be collating and summarising the responses. There will be a Central West Cluster meeting tomorrow morning where officers will talk about the next steps and you can ask about planning matters of concern.

Covid. Numbers in Wealden have reduced substantially in the past couple of weeks and vaccinations are proceeding well. Wealden DC have been very busy with business grants. Full details are on the website of the various grants available for different periods of Tiers/lockdowns etc. Officers are very busy processing forms which all have to be checked for accuracy and they are endeavouring to get the grants out as quickly as possible to businesses.

Waste is continuing to be outstanding with very few missed bins, despite staff absences. Recycling rates remain one of the best in East Sussex but the council is looking to improve further with more communication and advice over the coming weeks.