

Reports from Cllr Standley and Cllr Dixon for Hadlow Down PC meeting 5th October 2021

1. Update from Cllr Standley to Hadlow Down Parish Council October 2021

Council Monitoring

1st qtr report was approved by Cabinet last week. The majority of targets – 43 of 52- have been met although there are a number, esp re schools, that cant be measured because of the pandemic.

The report did highlight a one off surplus of £8.8m which will be used for Climate change and highways one off expenditure. Exact details to be decide at the November cabinet.

Climate Change

Last week I spoke at the Rotherfield Parish Annual Parish meeting on Climate Change and thought you may be interested in my notes for that meeting

Question What is county doing re Climate change Answer well quite a lot

The County Council debated climate change in 2019 and agreed the following

- 1) to declare that a climate emergency
- 2) To achieve net carbon neutral as soon as possible and by 2050 at the latest
- 3) To set a plan of action
- 4) To report on progress will be made to East Sussex Cabinet and then on to Full Council

The commitment to delivering the action plan is cross party and whilst there will be differences in the approach the will to deliver the plan is agreed.

The Councils Place scrutiny committee also produced a report “Becoming a Carbon Neutral Council. This report was accepted by Council and its recommendations combined into the action plan

Progress on the action plan is reported to Cabinet and Full Council each year and coincidentally that is at tomorrow’s (last Thursday) Cabinet meeting

Of these 37 recommendations 5 have been completed

28 (76%) ongoing and just 4 not yet started

The council aims to has been reducing its emissions by 13% each year clearly this is easier in the early years and gets progressively harder as the low hanging fruit is picked.

Included in that target of 13% pa are maintained schools

A small example on work done is at Buxted Primary School where the replacement of fluorescent lamps with LED reduced emissions by 5 tonnes of CO2 saved £1500 a year with a capital out lay of 15k

We have also a Street light programme to replace 16000 sodium lights with LED- also some lights switched off at midnight but mindful of public safety

The Action Plan will be reviewed every 2 years to ensure the target of 2050 is met or ideally bettered

This is clearly not a County Council only programme and we work with District and Boroughs locally and also with our partners in SE7. We are also working with the SE Local enterprise Partnership

Climate change and carbon reduction at heart of decision making through council budgeting process

Remote working – covid has given evidence on home working can assist in reducing carbon footprint – there are some disadvantages in home working

Move to Electric Vehicles on replacement of current vehicles.

Add a couple of other points

Bus Back Better initiative will encourage more residents onto public transport but again more challenging in rural areas

Council member of Hydrogen Sussex

This is not just about Councils or business but all of us need to make our contribution

Final point on roads – and where I differ with Green Party that does not want any new roads- don't confuse traffic jams and emissions – an electric car or hydrogen vehicle can create traffic jams in the same way as Diesel or Petrol. Population in the UK and SE is increasing hence the need for housing and new roads to keep the economy growing.

Application for secondary school places

Reminder that parents of year 6 who will moving to senior school in Sept 2022 need to have completed the application form by Oct 31st.

2. Update from Cllr Dixon to Hadlow Down Parish Council October 2021

Local Plan

The work on the plan is progressing with the evidence base to inform the plan being assembled. The intention is to produce a full draft plan in the Spring which will go out for consultation. A Housing Needs Study has been commissioned as is available online. Parish Cluster meetings will continue to be held which give Parish Councils an opportunity to discuss issues on the plan as they arise.

Planning Application

The assessment of the Five Chimneys Farm application should be concluded soon. Highways have now withdrawn their objection and there are some minor points to be resolved with the applicant's agent and then Wealden will be in a position to come to a decision.

Legal Fee

Wealden have considered your request to waive the fee on the village hall. The legal officer has advised that it could not be waived but was able to reduce the fee to £750.

Healthy Wealden Website

Wealden's Healthy Wealden website, that contains a lot of information and links about activities and health in Wealden has recently had a series of self-guided walks added to the site, which will help to encourage residents to get out and about in the countryside.