

## **Reports from Cllr Standley and Cllr Dixon for Hadlow Down PC meeting 7<sup>th</sup> September 2021**

### **1. Update from Cllr Standley to Hadlow Down Parish Council September 2021**

#### County Clean

I am sure we will all be happier when this item is no longer part of my report or indeed the public forum, but that time has not arrived.

Before my week off I wrote to County Clean asking them whether the route was now clear, although aware that there could be some issues remaining.

I offered to meet to identify any outstanding problems so they could be attended to expeditiously. The reply was disappointing in that it merely stated they would only return to the proscribed route when instructed by ESCC.

I will continue to chase ESCC highways for a resolution.

#### Adult Social Care

As I write we are expecting an announcement re funding of ASC. Whether these proposals have an immediate impact on ESCC funding in the short term is open to question. That a long-term solution needs to be found for ASC is not really in question.

#### Highways

A new highways contract is due to start in May 23, which seems a long way off but isn't, and extensive work is being done to ensure the new contract delivers improves the highway verge to verge not just the tarmac.

#### Covid

With schools returning there is a chance that cases will rise and schools have contingency plans. As you will be aware there is a debate re vaccination of 12-16 year olds

Greater social interaction in recent weeks has increased infection rates with Wealden being just below the national average. Having said that we do need to learn to live with Covid and get "back to as normal as possible. 87% of Wealden residents over 16 have had one jab and 80% two jabs.

#### Solar Together

HOMEOWNERS in East Sussex are being invited to register for a solar panel scheme which could save them money and help cut their carbon emissions.

Solar Together Sussex, a group buying scheme supported by Sussex councils including East Sussex County Council, will allow residents to buy high-quality solar panels and battery storage at a competitive price.

The scheme, which could help residents reduce their annual carbon emissions by around a tonne each year, will support the county council's efforts to help tackle climate change.

The council has cut its own carbon emissions by more than 60 per cent since 2008 and hopes to inspire and support residents to make changes that will help East Sussex become a more environmentally friendly county.

Households will be able to register free of charge for the initiative, run in partnership with group purchasing experts iChoosr, before September 28.

Following the registration period, an auction will be held with pre-vetted installers, to identify the most competitive bid to supply solar panels to all households who have registered an interest.

Residents will then have until November 26 to decide whether to accept the recommendation and quote and continue with installation.

Residents who have already invested in solar panels can opt for 'retrofit' battery storage to get more from the renewable energy they generate and increase their independence from the grid.

More information about the scheme and details on how to register an interest can be found at <https://solartogether.co.uk/eastsussex/home>

### New Director of Children's Services

Alison Jeffrey joined the Council on Sept 1st to replace Stuart Gallimore who retired at the end of July.

## **2. Update from Cllr Dixon to Hadlow Down Parish Council September 2021**

### Waste

The performance results have been published for 2020/21 and they show that there has been a significant increase in waste collected. (7.4%). The recycling % has also fallen slightly.

Garden waste increased over the past year and this year the take up of the collection services has improved.

Some of these indicators would have been impacted by tip closures and people working from home, so may be distorted.

The performance of Biffa, considering the problems with the covid restrictions, continues to be good.

### Planning

The Housing Needs Study, which will inform the new local plan as regards housing size and mix and tenure, has now been published and is available on the website. We are planning to publish a draft plan early in the new year.

The next parish planning cluster meeting will be on September 30th at 2pm where progress on the plan will be discussed. Stacey Robins normally attends as well so can be consulted on development management issues as well.

### Housing

Wealden is continuing to make great progress with provision of affordable housing and has delivered more social housing than any of our neighbouring authorities. We have a number of ongoing schemes which the council is building ourselves, similar to Woodpecker View at Jarvis Brook.