

## **HADLOW DOWN PC – COUNCILLOR UPDATES FOR MTG 5<sup>th</sup> OCTOBER 2021**

### **Rachel Lewis**

#### **HDCC**

#### **Fundraising event**

The New Village Hall Committee announced they are holding a “Race Night” on Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> October 7.30 in the Village Hall. This event will be to raise funds towards the New Village Hall.

There are lots of ways you can join in and support them:

- Sponsor a race for £50 and name the race!
- Become a race horse owner, only £5 per horse. There will be prizes on the night for the winning owners.
- Bets will cost £1 per horse, prize money will be shared equally between winners and HDCC
- Tables of eight will be available.
- Tickets are £15 per head and include curry\*, rice and a popadom! (veg option)
- There will be a licensed bar.

It was an excellent evening last time they ran it !!!

FOR MORE DETAILS AND TO BUY TICKETS PLEASE CONTACT BOB ON 830857

### **Peter Weston**

**Attended virtual Cabinet Office ‘Keeping Communities Safe in Winter’ webinar (20.9.21).** Main points:

- Autumn / Winter Plan published by the Government w/b 13<sup>th</sup> September. This places emphasis on building on the progress that has been made (vaccination and associated therapeutic treatments) etc. whilst protecting the NHS – this is ‘Plan A’ and thereby avoiding ‘Plan B’, which includes elements of compulsion in respect of face masks, self-isolation, etc.
- Much discussion of concerns regarding apparent complacency of the ‘double jabbed’ (e.g. not wearing face masks on public transport, in shops, etc.) and their role in spreading infection. Alongside this concerns were raised over a drop off in testing rates and use of the ‘track and trace’ app – participants were asked to use their local influence to encourage take up of vaccination, testing, and use of ‘track and trace’ app.
- Much data provided; at the time of the webinar approximately 8,000 hospital beds were occupied by ‘Covid patients’ (i.e. approx.. 8% of beds) with approx.1,000 of these being in critical care (i.e. on ventilators) – overall this is much higher than the same time last year, but with a smaller percentage being in critical care.

#### **Attended virtual meeting of Chairs (22/9/21): Main points:**

Ian Davison went through a long list of potential / signposted governance issues, including:

- creation of new unitaries (e.g. Cumbria split in two);
- remote meetings of Councils not permitted but members of public could join remotely;
- introduction of photo identification for voters;
- residential property development tax to pay for cladding and possible other changes to CIL etc. (unspecific);

- 'Levelling Up White Paper expected soon;
- possible audit reform (unspecified);
- Government intention to map all underground services; etc..

Trevor Leggo led a wide ranging discussion that included:

- several Councils have declared a 'Climate Emergency' or variation with actions including planting trees / hedges, running a community fridge, etc.
- difficulty in recruiting / retaining Council Clerks;
- Trevor is collating information from across the County regarding the poor state of roads, poor repair of potholes, etc. Trevor asking for additional information – *suggest HDPC submits the draft minutes of the last SLR meeting with a covering note explaining the context.*
- Mention of 'County safety Advisory Clusters'; Wealden contacts are John Gross and Kendal Wells (the HDPC Clerk attends these meetings).
- Potential pressure on village green space (unlikely for development to be agreed except where there are major infrastructure developments e.g. Polegate).

**SID:** Emails, phone calls etc. – poles now in place and SID has been ordered.

**Acting Chairperson:** Various, including scrutiny of budget documentation prior to the October meeting of the PC.

### **David Munday**

The annual planning visit to Wilderness Wood took place, attended by the owners, me and Cllrs Rachel Lewis and Peter Weston. There were useful discussions of their evolving plans.

I attended a Central West Parish Cluster meeting - these are organised by Wealden to discuss input to the new Development Plan. Evidence for this is being published, recently a Local Housing Needs Assessment, 180 pages, which relates to housing type needs but not to the number required nor to where to build. More evidence will be published this autumn. A draft of the Plan will be published in the spring for discussion and comment.