

## Reports from Cllr Standley and Cllr Dixon for Hadlow Down PC meeting 1<sup>st</sup> March 2022

### 1. Update from Cllr Standley to Hadlow Down Parish Council March 2022

#### Budget

As expected, the budget was approved with the 4.5% increase in council tax. As explained at last month's meeting 1.99% increase relates to the the General Fund and an additional 2.5% Adult Social Care precept

#### Levelling Up Fund

The Govt has announced the Levelling Up White Paper. It runs to 305 pages, and it will take some time to digest and understand all its strategies. There is an Executive Summary

#### Highlights

- Project Gigabyte to bring gigabit-capable broadband to 85% of UK homes and includes £1BN for rural broadband 4G coverage by the end of 2025.
- £96bn Integrated Rail Plan
- New School Funding formula and a new Schools Bill White Paper in the spring
- £3.8bn Skills funding
- £4.8bn infrastructure investment in towns.

#### SEND

New SEND website launched with aim to deliver a "one-stop" shop. Site designed with advice from sector professionals , parents and carers.

#### County Clean

Following representations from a local resident I have contacted ESCC who have in turn contacted County Clean and response is

*I've just spoken to County Clean. He is going to speak with the drivers and remind them of the route they should be taking as he was not aware of any issues with using Five Chimneys.*

#### Highways Contract

As previously reported this contract is current be procured for implementation in May 2023. Shortlisted companies are Ringway Jacobs, Balfour Beatty and Colas. The successful tenderer will be announced in September. Contract term will be 7 years with a 7-year extension if performance satisfactory and be worth over 700M over the full term.

#### Council Monitoring Qtr. 3

Being reported to Cabinet Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> March

41 targets (76%) targets met in full

7 targets (13.%) Amber

5 targets ( 9.1%) Red

1 target deleted

All details on-line

## **2. Update from Cllr Dixon to Hadlow Down Parish Council March 2022**

There is another parish cluster meeting at the end of the month to discuss the local plan. As has been said, the officers will not be releasing further details on site allocations and numbers until after the government has announced their changes which are expected in the Spring. Hopefully if the numbers come down it might mean that we will have a 5 year supply of housing land, which will give us much more control over speculative development.

With regard to the action: “follow up on the fact that you cannot leave a message on the Wealden DC noise disturbance out of hours complaint hotline and find out what a member of the public should do to report out of hours noise disturbance.” - The situation is that there is no out of hours service for noise complaints but you can leave a message on 01424 787868. Visits will only take place in summer months when pre-arranged. The issue with the number which was not being answered related to a housing contact number which was out of use. The housing page will be updated and the issue of contacting Wealden out of hours will be reviewed.