

Reports from Cllr Standley and Cllr Dixon for Hadlow Down PC meeting 5th April 2022

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

Ukraine

Clearly the full effect of refugees coming into the UK is difficult to assess. However, given the vast majority are women and children there may be pressure on school places depending on where the refugees are accommodated. Given the male members of the family have mainly stayed to fight the Ukrainians stay may be short-lived and they return to Ukraine when the fighting stops – that will depend on where they lived and what is left.

Pressure on children's services and ASC is likely.

Wealden residents have, as expected, been generous with offers of help including accommodation.

Schools Bill

The Schools Bill was published last week and includes plans for all schools to be academies The white paper leaves LA's with responsibility for school places and does allow for LA's to set up their own MATs.

Also published last week was a green paper on SEND.

Both the white and green papers are detailed documents and the implications on their recommendations will become more apparent over the coming weeks.

Police and Crime Panel

As part of my county role, I am Deputy Chairman of Sussex Police and Crime Panel. This panel calls the Police and Crime Commissioner to account. The PCC sets policy, and the panel can question her on that, but we can't go into operational matters which are responsibility of the Chief Constable. Having said that the line between the two can be difficult to define.

The agenda at the meeting a week last Friday included the Commissioners response to the HMICFRS report on violence against women

It makes disturbing reading. It is a long report 170 pages so difficult to do justice in this report:-

2.3million victims of domestic abuse of which 1.6m were female

2 out of 3 16- to 34-year-old women reported they had been sexually abused in the last 12 months

One woman is killed by a man every 3 days

Women who experienced cyber stalking in England and Wales doubled from 659 in 12/13 to 1290 2016/17 and Wales

Rape and sexual assault went from 11,445 Female and 850 males in 02/03 to 53419 and 6468 respectively in 18/19. Fortunately 20/21 did see a decrease to 49997 male and 5699 female.

The committee also scrutinised Priority 2 _ relentless disruption of serious and organised crime including County Lines

2. Update from Cllr Dixon to Hadlow Down Parish Council April 2022

Planning

The local plan work is continuing with the evidence base to support the plan. Given that we are waiting for the government to produce some new housing numbers, there will be some delay to publishing the draft plan. We are also hopeful that there will be other changes, including on the five-year housing land supply calculation, but there will be no new planning bill or wholesale changes to the planning system.

The Five Chimneys Farm

This has now finally been agreed for approval. A lot of work has been done on this application and all the residential element has been removed and landscaping and site design has been amended to make it more in keeping with the AONB.

Health and Wellbeing

A new Health and Wellbeing strategy has been published for 2022-25. And an action plan will be developed from this. The aim is to focus on being an enabler rather than deliverer and look widely at health, from a more holistic point of view especially mental health, loneliness, active communities and healthy choices.

Wealden Residents Satisfaction Survey

The survey conducted last year has been published and is a reasonable result and above the national average. Not surprisingly there has been a significant improvement in refuse collection and street cleaning satisfaction. On the other hand, planning remains very low which is no doubt impacted by the increased development and uncertainty.