

Reports from Cllr Standley and Cllr Dixon for Hadlow Down PC meeting 3rd May 2022

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

Ukraine

Following on from my report last month there was an extensive report to ESCC Cabinet a couple of weeks ago. The report covered a wide range of issues and is available on line should any councillor wish to find out more. ESCC are working with a wide range of partners including D and B's and voluntary sector.

Ukrainian refugees (Govt advice is we call them guests) have not started to arrive

The latest stats I have is that 126 Ukrainian guest arrived this week bringing total to 246 with 105 hosts.

Matched expected arrivals are 1168 into 488 hosts

Partnership have made contact with 650 adult hosts to begin safeguarding and home checks Completed 40 of those home checks

Largest number of guests and expected guests are in Wealden with 106 arrivals and 509 expected arrivals.

Five Chimneys Land Ownership

This has been on the agenda for many months and as I have stated it is not a high priority for ESCC . I can raise again with officers but really question whether , given we have sorted the County Clean trucks – hopefully permanently- it is worth officer time investigating what I know will not be straightforward.

School Transport

I was asked a question at the APM re transport for over 16's which is not a statutory requirement. County spend almost £17m on Home to school transport and the policy is unlikely to change in the immediate future.

Other Questions at APM

The other questions at the APM related to the withdrawn Wealden Local Plan and Air Quality measurement. These are both Wealden District Council matters but I answered the questioners outside following closure of the meeting.

Household Support Fund

At my recent Lead Member meeting I allocated £1.1m of the Councils allocation to provide food vouchers for children of FSM (Free School Meals) to be continued for the May half term and over the summer.

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

The local plan work is continuing with evidence gathering and site assessments, while we wait for some announcement from the government on housing numbers, which is hoped for

in the Queens Speech next week. Hopefully, the government will move housing to the North and we will then be working with lower numbers.

As you are probably aware the waste collections are being disrupted due to strike action by the GMB union. Biffa, our contractor, are hopeful that they would be able to collect all the general waste rounds but not the recycling or garden waste. However residents should put their bins out as normal on the due day. Biffa will not be able to do catchup rounds if bins are not collected.

The bin storage at Marlowe House will be altered so that it is in line with the planning permission, as granted. This might still not be satisfactory but it should be a lot less obtrusive.

Wealden has produced a new attractions guide to help boost the tourism industry which is so important to Wealden, bringing revenue and supporting local employment.

<https://www.explorewealden.co.uk/whats-on-and-more/maps-and-attractions-guide>

Bob Standley will be stepping down as leader at the Annual Meeting of the Council on 18th May, after 12 years at the helm. He has led the council through a period of change and leaves it for the new leader, in a strong financial position. During this time Wealden has sold the Pine Grove offices, built the Crematorium, contracted out our waste services and promoted partnership working with other authorities and kept the council tax low. A great legacy to hand on to the new leader!