

## **Reports from Cllr Standley and Cllr Dixon for Hadlow Down PC meeting 7<sup>th</sup> June 2022**

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

I have chased ESCC Highways on Five Chimneys sign but have no more information at present.

#### **Budget**

The budget process for 23/24 has started but it will be challenging. The decision in 22/23 to hold some funds back to smooth the budget process for 23/24 has proved to be a wise one.

Inflationary pressures on staff wages and increased supply costs together with increased demand for services will not make the process of setting the budget an easy one.

#### **Ukraine Guests**

858 guests have now being hosted in East Sussex. Across the D and B's in ESCC the largest number are in Wealden District. I have had some enquiries re delay in supply of visas which I have followed up with Nus Ghani.

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

#### **New Leader**

A new leader, Ann Newton, was elected at the Annual meeting of the Council in May to replace Bob Standley. She has been serving as the portfolio holder for planning since 2013 and will continue to hold that office going forward. Pam Doodles, Neil Waller and Richard Hallett have also joined the cabinet with Bob and Roy galley stepping down.

#### **Waste**

As you are aware, the bin strike is continuing although a new improved offer has been made by Biffa, after discussions through ACAS. The GMB members were balloted today but the union did not recommend acceptance of the new offer and it was unsurprisingly rejected.

The northern part of the district has been largely unaffected by the strike as general waste collections have mainly been maintained, with the exception of properties requiring a smaller vehicle which are serviced from Hailsham. Garden waste and recycling collections have been suspended and residents should keep this waste until the strike is over or, if possible, take to the tip in Crowborough/Heathfield. The recycling point in Wilderness Woods can be used and there is no need to separate recycling there, as long as it isn't full. A decision on compensation for the loss of the garden waste service will be made at the end of the strike.

In the south, there are more problems with the depot and Biffa are putting in place central points where residents can take their rubbish. This has worked worked very well. However there are now succeeding in running a couple of crews from the depot and when possible this will take precedence.

The latest update will continue to be posted online each day with a link from the front page of the Wealden website.

**Council Tax Energy Rebate**

The rebate of £150 for those in houses rated A-D will be processed this week

**Qualification for Affordable Housing**

The Council is proposing to change the allocation criteria for registration on the housing list which will relax the requirements as regards household incomes and savings. This will enable more people to be able to register.

As always please email me with any issues you wish to raise.