

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

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

Five Chimneys Sign

I chased highways last week re the Five Chimneys sign and will update when I have more information.

Council Monitoring 4th Qtr.

Report was considered by Cabinet last week.

The year had seen the challenges of Covid with some KPI information not able to be collected to make year on year comparisons. 67% of targets were met with 20% not met but some by a small margin.

In my own portfolio young people meeting RPA (Raising Participation Age) requirement re training or education scoring 85% (red rating) against target of 86%

Children with Child Protection Plan 50.3 per 10k population against target of 49.4%.

Pressures on Children's Services as previously reported was evident with overspend of £2.8m but underspends on other services produced a predicted total underspend of £4.3m.

Cabinet also considered the State of the County Report

This is the start of budget setting process for 23/24. The main report lists out the focus for the County and gives details on a wide range of headings.

The budget position is unclear given the govt settlement was for one year only for 22/23 and we are awaiting information on a guide for the 23/24 settlement. The inflation rate will have a significant affect on the county in both pressure on wages and increased costs from services and products we buy in.

The report contains a lot of stats which councillors may find interesting.

The main themes remain:

- Driving sustainable economic growth
- Keeping Vulnerable people safe
- Helping people help themselves
- Making best use of resources.

Skills

Improving skills across all groups is important to attract the higher wage jobs to the County. Over the year there are a number of Career Festivals. One in particular I attended last week.

This is ICAN and has been developed for young people Year 9 onwards who have or perceive barriers to mainstream career fairs i.e., those with SEND and other disabilities to give them confidence in the jobs that are on offer.

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

Waste

The most important council news this month is that Biffa have settled the pay dispute with GMB and the bin men have returned to work.

There will still be some disruption for the next week or two as they have to catch up on all the missed collections and some collections will be made late so householders should leave their bins out until they are collected. In the north, this applies particularly to the garden waste collections. Those houses which are serviced from the Hailsham depot would have experienced more disruption but hopefully all their waste will be cleared over the coming days.

To compensate for the lack of garden waste collections, the Council has announced that they will freeze the fee for those who subscribe for the next two years so the cost will remain at £55 pa until at least 2024.

Chris Bending

Chris, who was head of service for planning policy and economic development, has now taken up his new role as Director of Planning, Policy and Environmental services. This means that he will have overall responsibility for all planning matters and replaces Isabel Garden who has retired. A replacement for Chris has been recruited and will start in September.

Ukrainian Guests

Wealden residents have welcomed many Ukrainian families into their homes and represent the highest number across the districts and boroughs of East Sussex. Although the county is leading on this, Wealden has been active in this, arranging the subsistence payments for guest, assisting local groups etc. Wealden does have responsibility for housing and so any breakdown in the relationship with the hosts is a potential concern as new hosts would have to be found or the families would have to be housed by the council.