

Reports from Cllr Standley and Cllr Dixon for Hadlow Down PC meeting 6th September 2022

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

With the holiday period since our last meeting there have not been any Cabinet or Full Council meetings so there is little new to report.

36B Bridleway

Following last months Full Council where I reported that Rights of Way were aware of a problem but that it was not high on their list I contacted the Rights of Way Team again. They have now agreed to inspect the bridleway again this autumn/winter and will update me on the outcomes.

Sign Five Chimneys

This was raised at the SLR and Ian Johnson said the sign was replaced (thanks for photo Samantha) but was taken down as it obstructed sightlines. It is due to be re-erected in a better position.

Exam Results

This year was the first full uninterrupted year since the pandemic. Whilst making direct comparison with earlier years is difficult it was pleasing to have strong results in English and Maths. Higher grades 9-5 in both subjects were 46% with 9-4 was 66%.

Advice is available for those looking at the next steps whether it be further education, apprenticeships, T levels etc <https://careerseastsussex.co.uk>

In addition, the Youth Employability Service provides support on a one to one basis for vulnerable 16-18 year olds who need additional support.

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

Local Plan

With the election of Liz Truss as PM, we are expecting to see some changes to the levelling up bill that might allow us to reduce our requirement for housing in Wealden. This might take the form of a much stronger protection of the AONB and for that to be reflected in a reduced overall target for Wealden. If however, the targets are removed completely then it will depend on what methodology replaces it for calculating housing need. We naturally want to move on quickly with a draft plan but we are not able to proceed while we don't know what number we are working to. There are many authorities in the same boat as us, so hopefully the government will move forward quickly on this.

There is a Parish Cluster Meeting on the 13th September.

The Robins

I have asked the application for an extension to the permission to be heard at the planning committee north, on 15th September. This is recommended by the officer for approval as a permanent site, with the same conditions as the original application, ie limited to the names stated. This was refused by the planning committee when originally submitted and they should now rehear the application.

Enforcement Issues

Drakes Head Den is being discussed between the officers and will likely result in a notice of planning breach being issued. Enforcement action at the Robins has commenced and the site will be visited by an enforcement officer very soon. It is not affected by the planning application as the conditions being breached are not proposed to be regularised in the application. Wilderness Woods owners are being contacted by enforcement to resolve the concerns.

Waste

The waste service has now returned to normal with missed bins approaching pre strike levels. Interestingly, waste volumes are still running higher than pre pandemic levels, presumably as a result of people still working more from home.