

Report from Cllr Dixon for Hadlow Down PC meeting 4th April 2023

Purdah

We are now in the pre-election period and up to the elections on 4th May there are no committees planned (including planning), and policy decisions taken by the council will be very limited, although of course the officers will continue their day to day work as normal.

Local Plan

As stated last month, the draft local plan has been delayed until autumn as we are waiting for the government response to the changes to the NPPF. Parish cluster meetings will resume later in the year when there is greater clarity on the way forward with housing numbers. It does appear likely that Wealden will be able to justify much lower housing numbers than those proposed by the government's standard method, which is very good news for Wealden. As a great number of houses have already been approved through the planning process, if the total number is reduced it would leave very little scope for further large housing development in Wealden. Once a plan is in place and Wealden has a five year housing supply, there would be very little basis for any development in the AONB which is not in accordance with policy.

Enforcement

Wealden enforcement have issued enforcement notices for the fence and caravan at Drakes Head Den. They were given a month to appeal and then until 12th June to comply, which I hope they will do.

Benefits Advice

The benefits team are organising drop-in sessions to give advice on claiming benefits. The next one is tomorrow, 5th April, at the community centre in Crowborough, and there will be others in the future across the district.

Finally

As I am standing down at the elections after eight years as your representative on the district council, I would like to say that it has been an honour to represent the parish and I wish the very best to my successor.