

## Reports from Cllr Standley and Cllr Dixon for Hadlow Down PC meeting 7<sup>th</sup> March 2023

### 1. Update from Cllr Standley to Hadlow Down Parish Council March 2023

#### Highways

##### Potholes

We have repaired 8261 potholes since Jan 1<sup>st</sup>.

There are 569 still in the system, which is less than the normal figure.

I checked re the query of when a repair is taken off the system. Damon asked whether possible a failed repair re-reported would show as complete from the initial repair. Director's response was this should not happen as new report would be treated as new.

#### Sussex Integrated Health and Care

##### The organisation is now established and has announced its priorities for 2023

- **Increasing access to and reducing variability in primary care** -to help people get appointments at their GP as quickly as possible.
- **Improving response times to 999 calls and reducing A& waiting time**- To help the sickest patients get the emergency care they need as quickly as possible.
- **Reducing diagnostic and planned care waiting lists**- to help people get the operation or procedure they need as quickly as possible.
- **Accelerating patient flow through the system and discharge from hospital**- to help make sure people do not stay in hospital any longer than absolutely necessary.

The longer 5 year strategy "Improving Lives Together" is on the website.

[0438-NHS-Sussex-VF4-4.pdf \(ics.nhs.uk\)](https://www.ics.nhs.uk/0438-NHS-Sussex-VF4-4.pdf)

#### Ukraine

The council marked the anniversary of the Russian invasion with a minute's silence.

East Sussex residents continue to assist families fleeing the war with more families expected over the coming weeks.

#### Household Support Fund

I approved funding of £2m to support children, who claim Free School Meals, to have food vouchers during the school holidays. Other parts of the HSF funding support vulnerable adults.

#### Library Book Amnesty

An amnesty on non-returned books is operating until March 31st and fines for late return waived. Popular books such as The Hungry Caterpillar, Charlies and the Chocolate Factory are some of those overdue and over 70 titles by Roald Dahl are currently missing.

## **2. Update from Cllr Dixon to Hadlow Down Parish Council March 2023**

### **Purdah**

We will be entering the pre-election period on 20<sup>th</sup> March and up to the elections there will be much less activity at Wealden as regards committees, policy decisions etc although of course the officers will continue their day to day work as normal.

### **Council Tax**

The Wealden element of the Council Tax bill has been confirmed by Full Council to be increasing by 3%, obviously well below inflation. Staff salaries are also increasing by 3% but there will be some changes to the remuneration structure to prevent our salaries becoming uncompetitive. Council members have agreed not to have an increase in their allowance. Clearly there are cost pressures on the council with inflation and uncertain government funding, but they have been able to deliver a balanced budget without having to dip into reserves.

### **Local Plan**

We should get a new timetable for the local plan shortly but, given the timing of the consultation on the revised NPPF, it is unlikely that we will have a draft local plan before the summer. Given that it is difficult to move ahead with the plan until the government position is confirmed, the planning policy team have decided to postpone Parish Cluster meetings until later on in the year. It should be noted that Wealden aren't alone in this and that many of our neighbouring authorities are in the same position. Indeed 2022 was a record low year for plans being adopted across the UK.

### **Wealden Lottery**

Wealden have launched a lottery for good causes in the district. Tickets are on sale now and the first draw is on 25<sup>th</sup> March. If there are any organisations in Hadlow Down that want to sign up for this, they can do so on the [wealdencommunitylottery.co.uk](http://wealdencommunitylottery.co.uk) website.

### **EV Charging sites**

Wealden are starting to introduce EV charging points in their carparks. The nearest ones to Hadlow Down will be in Heathfield and Crowborough.