

## **Report from Cllr Michael Lunn representing Hadlow Down and Rotherfield Ward for Hadlow Down PC meeting 4<sup>th</sup> July 2023**

### **Waste collections**

Wealden District Council have been formally told that the dispute between BIFFA and the Union is now full resolved. For the record this was very different dispute to the previous strike and not related to pay.

### **Water Outage – the official SEW explanation**

SEW saw very high demands for water in our Sussex region. The issue was compounded by a significant burst water main on Friday which impacted supplies at Peacehaven. SEW Water Treatment Works at Barcombe supports this area when there are supply issues through a large diameter transfer main called the Ouse valley transfer. Unfortunately this main suffered a significant burst later on Friday and resulted in a large loss of water from our system until the burst could be isolated and repaired overnight. Supplies were restored on Saturday morning to the impacted area again using the Ouse Valley transfer. This however has had a detrimental impact on the other areas supplied by Barcombe. Barcombe is a very large water treatment works located near Lewes and supplies water out towards Ashdown Forest and East Grinstead, this water is then transferred onto Cottage Hill Reservoir which supplies the Wadhurst, Rotherfield and Mayfield areas.

### **Cllr Michael Lunn response to SEW explanation.**

Well I don't want to bore the Parish Council or the community of the ins and outs of all the communications I had both with SEW or Wealden District Council but the whole situation was handled badly. My primary concern was where Gold Command of Wealden District Council was consistently ignored by South East Water, Wealden District Council should of declared an emergency. This would have brought the Fire Brigade in and support at water ring stations etc.

I also started to call for an emergency meeting of WDC on the Monday evening and I made 3 calls for one. In the end it took a fellow Councillor to help broker a co-ordination of up to 20 councillors to call for an extra-ordinary meeting of Wealden District Council which passed motion unanimously.

### **Final Statistics on the outage as presented by SEW**

SEW delivered 88 pallets of water to **Mayfield** and 68 pallets to **Rotherfield**, totalling 156 pallets.

Pallets of water	Packets	Bottles (2 Litre)	Litres
156	12792	76752	153504

A further 4 pallets of water were dropped off at Mayfield School as a planned, unmanned drop-off i.e., not a manned water station.

### **Livestock:**

SEW supplied 8400 litres for livestock over 8 days.

### **Vulnerable customers supported:**

- From 12<sup>th</sup> -18<sup>th</sup> June, deliveries for vulnerable customers were as followed:
- Wadhurst = 914 total deliveries / 10,968 litres of water

- Crowborough = 619 total deliveries / 7,428 litres of water
- Mayfield = 295 total deliveries / 3,540 litres of water
- Rotherfield – no data provided
- Hadlow Down – no data provided

### **Extraordinary Meeting of Wealden District Council – South East Water.**

An extraordinary meeting of Wealden District Council to discuss the SEW outage on 28<sup>th</sup> June 2023. This was to discuss a proposed motion by Councillor D White and signed by Councillors Benton, Cleaver, Collins, Gadd, Lunn, Millward, Reed and Shaw to consider the recent failures on the part of South East Water to maintain an adequate supply of water to parts of the district.

The proposed motion asked for the leader and the chief executive of Wealden to write to South East Water asking for a full explanation of the causes of the recent failures, full details of the actions taken to address them and to mitigate the effects to local residents, including details of when the company first became aware of the problems and the timing of its response; and confirmation of the steps being taken to ensure that there is no recurrence of the failures.

The second part of the motion addressed the impact of climate change and the increasing demand for new housing in an area of acknowledged water stress.

The council asked Wealden's leader and chief executive to notify OFWAT, and the government to consider concerns at the failures on the part of South East Water to maintain an adequate supply of water to our existing residents and the effect of this upon their health and wellbeing. They also asked the Minister for Housing, Communities and Local Government to support a reduction in housing numbers for the district until there is a long-term solution to the water shortage.

You can watch the whole proceedings via this link. [https://wealden.public-i.tv/core/portal/webcast\\_interactive/785629](https://wealden.public-i.tv/core/portal/webcast_interactive/785629)

To watch Cllr Michael Lunn's contribution to the extraordinary Full Council please follow link [https://wealden.public-i.tv/core/portal/webcast\\_interactive/785629/start\\_time/2916000?force\\_language\\_code=en\\_GB](https://wealden.public-i.tv/core/portal/webcast_interactive/785629/start_time/2916000?force_language_code=en_GB)

### **Wealden Local Plan - Sustainability Appraisal/Strategic Environmental Assessment - Scoping Report Update**

To support the development of the new Local Plan, the Council is required by law to undertake a Sustainability Appraisal (SA). The SA is an integral part of the plan making process and from the outset; it must consider ways by which the plan can contribute to improvements in environmental, social and economic conditions as well as a means of identifying and mitigating any potential adverse effects that the plan might otherwise have.

The first stage in the SA process is to produce a SA Scoping Report. A previous scoping report was consulted upon and published in 2020/2021 alongside our Direction of Travel Consultation.

This is a focused consultation on our SA Scoping report only and we are asking for Statutory Consultees, colleagues from neighbouring authorities and other relevant organisations as well as our communities to take part in the SA Scoping Report consultation.

The Consultation on the SA Scoping Report will run from 26<sup>th</sup> June 2023 to 05.00pm on the 7<sup>th</sup> August 2023.

To find out more about the Draft SA Scoping Report please review the information published on our [Wealden Local Plan - Wealden District Council - Wealden District Council](#).