

## Wealden District Council report – Cllr Michael Lunn – March 2024

### **Draft Local Plan**

An Extraordinary Full Council meeting took place on 8<sup>th</sup> February 2024 to consider the approval of the Wealden Draft Local Plan Regulation 18 document and other accompanying documents (Habitats Regulations Assessment and Initial Sustainability Appraisal).

This is a significant series of documents, however some are still outstanding and will be posted in the coming weeks, but the majority of documents are now available for public viewing.

Members of public are not advised to respond yet. A formal consultation will open in mid march and run for 6 weeks. A number of public exhibitions and drop in session will also be held.

### **Wealden District Council Tax**

This was passed at the Full Council on 21<sup>st</sup> February and has been confirmed as a rise of 2.99% which is under inflation. To balance the books some costs in services will increase, eg planning fees.

### **New Chair to Wealden District Council**

We welcomed a new Chair to Wealden District Council namely Councillor Jessika Hulbert, who has written to all Party leaders confirming her neutral political stance in the role which is warmly welcomed.