

County Councillor report to Hadlow Down Parish Council Nov 2025.

Crowborough Army Camp

Although primarily a District Council issue there are implications for the County Council. Where similar situations have occurred previously the planning authority (in this case WDC) have objected to the proposals. This did not happen in this case and the Leader of Wealden was quoted as agreeing to work with the Home Office with no suggestion of conditions or points raised. This lack of action or comment was confirmed in a meeting I attended with Nusrat Ghani MP with Home Office officials responsible for implementing the opening of the camp.

Nusrat has arranged a public meeting on Monday 10th.

I have significant concerns with 540 men , aged 18-65 but mainly at the younger end, with very little to do wandering around Crowborough.

Devolution

The three upper tier authorities. East Sussex, West Sussex and Brighton and Hove have all agreed to the publication of the Statutory Instrument which will formalise the creation of the Sussex and Brighton Combined Authority on the 11 May 2026. Mayoral elections are due on the 7th of May. The timing of the SI is up to the Govt but is expected to be tabled in late 2025 or early 2026.

Local Govt Reorganisation

I covered this topic in an earlier update and we now wait the next consultation period which will be launched by government.

Adult Social Care CQC Inspection

This is the first inspection of ASC for 15 years and contrary to statements made at Wealden District Council that the service is broken the opposite is the case. The service was ranked as good which means the service is performing well and meeting their expectations.

Whilst the CQC recognised the financial pressures their judgement did not take that into account and the rating was based solely on the delivery of services.

Children's Services Ofsted Inspection

The report on ASC follows a good report from the focused Ofsted report. The report covered Children in Need and child protection planning.

Despite the financial challenges the council continues to deliver quality serviced to those vulnerable and in need across the County.

RWS Nov 25