



Downland Villages Ward : MSDC

Geoff Zeidler : Councillor's Report – 31st March 2024

MSDC Update

The Council entered “purdah” ahead of the local elections on 2nd May so limiting debate on issues that could be considered political and there was little of note at the Council meeting on 27th March. Petitions are being brought to protest at the Parking charges.

We were told that there were around 1,300 responses to the Reg19 consultation on the District Plan. I was told that these were already public via the website, but it was then clarified that they were not yet but soon would be. It is hoped to start the Inspection in the autumn but this depends on the Planning Inspectorate.

Councillors are undertaking Carbon Literacy Training to enhance understanding of how to manage environmental and climate concerns. I await confirmation of acceptance of two related proposals.

Planning

The Battery Storage applications around Twineham are still pending although revised Fire Plans have been submitted.

There are plans for new Padel Courts at Wickwoods which is causing concern about the substantial increase in usage and membership since David Lloyd took over. This means that the parking available is inadequate and increasing parking on Trusslers Hill Lane. Responsibility falls between SDNP for planning; MSDC for licensing and WSCC for highways impacts; and I am assisting Fulking and Albourne Parish Councils to ensure that the full implications are considered.

Services

No comments.

Infrastructure

The Sayers Common Village Society is leading the multi-organisation plan to address Sayers Common flooding issues. There are plans for jetting and CCTV inspection of some of the highway drainage. MSDC are undertaking a flood investigation around Kingsland Cottages and the planning issues of connecting a new French drain a fence are being addressed.

WSCC is also working with Albourne PC to review the persistent issues on the Henfield Road.

Parish Issues for DC Support

In light of the Parks Strategy Action Plan which offers limited prospect of support for Rural areas, and issues at the Wyshe in Pyecombe and Fulking I have been talking with the Communities Team about support that can assist Parishes to raise funds from third parties and specifically the role of the Community Development officers. At present the main avenues of support appear to be Trevor Leggo at WSALC (based in Hurstpierpoint) and the MSVA team who I intend to meet soon.

Albourne (Next meeting – 2nd April)

We are awaiting confirmation of a request to move the re-Wilding area to the centre of Barleycroft. There is also co-ordination with Steve White who is working with WSCC on flooding issues in Sayers Common on the gullies on Henfield Road.

There remain issues with waste collection at Goldsmiths and fly-tipping at the Recreation Ground.

Fulking (11th April)

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geoff.zeidler@midsussex.gov.uk

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The appeal in relation to the Small Acres site is due to be decided in the next few weeks. The hearing clarified the impact of the definition of Travellers.

Hurstpierpoint & Sayers Common (25th April)

The focus has been on Sayers Common flooding (above). I have met with Michael Nailard from the Flora & Fauna group about the Pond at Berrylands Farm and we are waiting to hear from MSDC/Glendale Countryside on their next steps. We are still seeking clarification around plans for drainage in Goddards Green area.

Newtimber (TBC)

We are seeking WSCC support in relation to the safety of the entrance at Little Acorns with WSCC. I am seeking to clarify responsibilities for drainage problems in Church Lane to ensure that MSDC avoid flooding.

Poynings (TBC)

Awaiting feedback from WSCC on issues including speeding and road re-surfacing.

Pyecombe (7th May)

We have had a proposed action plan relating to the Play area. I have provided some initial comments and a link to the SDNP Plan and we await any more formal proposals which I hope can be considered in a constructive manner.

Twineham (13th May)

Focus remains on planning issues in relation to the BESS scheme and the District Plan.