

Charles and I are honoured to be elected as District Councillors in the recent local elections. We were hugely honoured and humbled by the number of people that have put their faith in us and promise that as District Councillors we will work hard, be visible, listen and fight for the interests of this community. We also look forward to supporting the Parish Council and have a close working relationship with you all.

We would also like to say thank you to Janet Duncton who was Gareth's co-councillor in the previous council term and to wish her well in the future. We look forward to working with her going forward as the County Councillor and hope we can support one another in protecting the beautiful community in which we serve.

Across the ward there were some wonderful events for the May Bank Holiday and the Coronation weekend. A huge thanks to all the amazing volunteers who worked hard to put on a happy and memorable event for residents. Some even having to think creatively when the weather decided not to play ball!

Local Updates

21/00466/OUT – Land West of Cornwood Townfield Kirdford West Sussex –

This failed again to go to the April committee as I had been advised. I will be taking this up with the Cabinet member for Planning once in post.

Lagoon 3 – The landowner of Lagoon 3 has entered a Not Guilty plea and elected trial at the magistrates' court. Trial is at Horsham Magistrates' Court on 23 August 2023 at 10:00am and it is listed for a day. The District Council as prosecutors are actively preparing for trial and will be continuously reviewing all elements of the case as we are required to do under the Code for Crown Prosecutors. Prosecution of course does not resolve the issue of the Lagoon itself which we will be seeking a resolution to.

Crouchlands Proposed Developments and 22/02346/OUT Foxbridge Golf Club Foxbridge Lane – There is currently no determination dates for these but they are being monitored closely and there is regular contact with the officer. There will also be a meeting arrange with the Crouchlands landowner which was requested during the election period.

District Council Elections

The District Council Elections were held on Thursday 4th May and is now a Liberal Democrat led Council after 24 years of being Conservative led. The results saw 25 Liberal Democrat Councillors get elected (including 2 in the Loxwood Ward), 5 Conservative Councillors, 4 Selsey Local Alliance Councillors and 2 Green Councillors.

At the time of writing, we had not yet had the Full Council Meeting (due to take place on 17th May) which announces Cabinet roles as well as Committees and Panel responsibilities. We will give an update on this when he writes next month.

It was also not clear at the time of writing who would be the official opposition on the Council as there are a range of different options available. Again, we will update once we know.

Local Plan and Housing Allocation Numbers.

The intention of my group is that there will be a review of housing allocations on the local plan based on the outcome of the consultation of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF). What this contains will enable us to ask for more evidence. We also might have some scope once the Levelling up Bill has been legislated by the Government.

The conclusion of the NPPF review was planned to be announced in the spring but we are advised that it has been delayed. In this case we are totally in the hands of government progress.

Our intention therefore is to review the local plan based on planned Government legislation. We would need this to review the plan but without it the risk is that it would not pass the inspectorate review. We are therefore currently in the hands of the Government, but our aim is certainly to explore if we can do something about housing allocation numbers.

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Meeting your District Councillors:

Gareth has the following surgery dates scheduled:

Saturday 20 May – The Onslow, Loxwood (12pm-2pm)

Saturday 3rd June – The Stag, Balls Cross (12pm-2pm)

Saturday 17 June – Kirdford Village Stores, Kirdford (12pm-2pm)

Saturday 1st July – Old Mill Café, Wisborough Green (12pm-2pm)

Saturday 15th July – Ifold Stores, Ifold (12pm-2pm)

Charles is also planning to run surgeries which will offer more opportunity to see your District Councillor face to face. These will be published in due course.

Should the dates suggested not be suitable for you or there are any other reasons preventing you from seeing us we are also happy to do home visits, telephone calls or zoom calls.

Our contact details:

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