

District and County Council Report for
Cuckfield Parish Council. 3rd September 2020.

The District Council continues to spearhead the local drive on Covid which has had a massive impact on the public purse. MSDC has been given additional duties by the Government which has impacted on the time of our officers. We have seen a big rise in demands on services and have had to radically change the way we deliver services; all at a time when we have seen an increase in costs and a very large reduction in rentals and other income streams; with little financial help from government.

The Council have had to reassess the impact on the rest of the year and a new Revised Corporate Plan was considered by Scrutiny Committee for Leader, Finance and Performance on 26th August. The recommendations will now go to Council and we will be able to report on that once Council has approved the plan.

A major decision taken at Council on 30th August was to reopen the leisure centers. This has been a very difficult decision as the costs involved are enormous. On balance it was decided that the public benefit outweighed the cost and that because of the councils prudence in the past, there was a sufficient funds in reserves to support the opening.

It is truly the best news that Haywards Heath 6th Form College is now open; a long, hard fought battle that was led by MSDC with great support from Sir Nicholas Soames.

The college is now fully staffed with 400 pupils enrolled. Management is with the Chichester College Group which has a first rate reputation and is the largest provider of further education in Sussex. The official opening ceremony will be held on 1st October.

Of importance to Cuckfield, though the development is Burgess Hill Town Centre, New River have resubmitted plans which was heard at District Planning today. It is relevant because it does show that despite the financial difficulties of some developers, they are still continuing to refine their proposals; with £2m already committed.

Following the recent disastrous water supply situation, we are working with Mims Davies MP and both county and district councils to hold an urgent meeting with SE Water and urge them to bring

forward infrastructure plans to avoid future repetition of such events.

Robert Salisbury and Peter Bradbury. MSDC Ward Members
Cuckfield