

MSDC and WSCC report for Cuckfield Parish Council
28th Jan 2021-01-26

Planning.

We continue to press the case for intervention on both Cuckfield Golf Course and the Broad Street development gates.

A meeting was held with the Leader and Cabinet member last week. Pete and Robert meeting with them both again to get feedback on MSDC position this Friday. However, there are signs that following our prolonged pressure, MSDC is looking at how to improve its enforcement arrangements.

DPD.

The DPD has completed its first consultation process and an Inspector has been appointed. At the same time a new “Call for Sites’ will be going out shortly. This has nothing to do with the DPD but is part of the requirement laid down by Mr Bore (remember him?) for the District Plan review in 2023. A particular focus will be on land for ‘Self Build’ which is being promoted by the Government; also employment land.

Boundary Review.

The first round of discussions has been completed and the paper will be submitted to the commission on 30th January.

Worthy of note. This is District ward and numbers of Councillors which is driven by elector numbers. Likely to take until summer 2022. It does not have any impact on Town and Parish boundaries which is a process undertaken by MSDC after the District adjustment. The Northern Arc, for example, continues to be part of Ansty and Staplefield Parish.

Courtmead Road.

Again both Peter and Robert met with the Leader to express our continued frustration at progress on dealing with the hoarding. We are looking to progress action on a solution.

Food Waste.

Following the deferral due to issues around ‘freighter’ crewing (sickness during pandemic etc), MSDC are now pushing the project forward and we will be the first District in Sussex to launch such a scheme. Food waste

accounts for 40% of landfill so this is an important initiative ecologically which will substantially improve overall recycling rates.

Small business grants.

MSDC continue to distribute grants and the scheme has been very well received by the business community. An improved access system has made it much simpler for businesses to assess which grants they are eligible for; which has improved the rate of take up.

Fibre Spine programme.

The build of the MSDC fibre spine from Brighton through the core of Mid Sussex is progressing well with 40kms of trunking laid to date.

EV chargers in car parks.

Unfortunately, the successful bidder for the scheme withdrew at contract stage so this programme will have to go out to tender again from WSCC.

Fire and Rescue Service.

The inspection body examining improvements in the service is so impressed with these improvements that it has decided there is no longer a need for it and has disbanded.

Children's Services.

The Inspector has decided the improvement path is extremely good and has therefore decided not to impose a trust model on WSCC. This is the first time ever that such a decision has been made and bodes well for the continuing improvements. The decision will be reviewed again in 12 months.

Cllrs Pete Bradbury and Robert Salisbury
26th January 2021