

## **DC Report for HPC Council Meeting 5<sup>th</sup> August 2024**

Cllr David Evans 3<sup>rd</sup> August 2024

At the long Council meeting on Thursday, 25 July 2024 the following were amongst the items discussed and supported by all parties and agreed unanimously:

- Council Strategy 2024-2028
- Climate and Environment Strategy Refresh
- Regeneration and Economy Strategy Refresh
- Community Asset Transfer Policy
- Annual Audit Report
- Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report

Whilst all these strategies and policies will have varying effects on Horndean I would highlight for the Parish Council's attention the Community Asset Transfer Policy. I have for many years raised the fact that the District Council owns and manages community assets in just a few Parishes that include playgrounds and a village hall which benefit only the local community but which are paid for by all residents of East Hampshire. None of these are in the Southern Parishes.

This can enable some Parish Councils to render a precept that is somewhat lower than many others such as the case of a community centre which is owned, maintained and operated by the District Council. In my view this is not equitable so I am pleased that a method for transferring such assets to the appropriate Parish Council has now been developed.

One asset in Horndean that remains in EDHC's portfolio is the allotments in Napier Road. I recall that HPC has previously expressed its desire to take ownership of these, allotments being one of the few things that are specifically regarded as a Parish Council's responsibility, but the absence of on-site water precluded this.

The new Labour Government published a draft revision to the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) on Tuesday. The NPPF guides local planning authorities in plan-making and decision-taking. This includes a proposed change to the standard method for calculating house building numbers which would increase EDHC's current 575 dwellings per annum requirement (which applies to the 43% of the District that is not within the South Downs National Park) by 499 to 1,074, a rise of 87%, and these numbers would be mandatory. There are other changes that could also affect East Hampshire and Horndean.

This is a draft for consultation, below is the link to the NPPF documents:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/proposed-reforms-to-the-national-planning-policy-framework-and-other-changes-to-the-planning-system>

This consultation will begin on Tuesday 30 July 2024 at 2pm and close at 11.45pm on Tuesday 24 September 2024.

It is not possible to predict what these numbers would mean for Horndean but a quick look at the map shows the available land in Horndean that is outside the SDNP so it is not unreasonable to conjecture that sites in Horndean previously rejected as less desirable may have to be re-assessed.