

District Councillor Report for HPC Council Meeting – 5th August

Council Strategies

At the council meeting last week, the council passed the corporate, climate & environment and the regeneration & economy strategies. The latter made specific mention of empowering and encouraging town and parish councils to lead on the delivery of vibrant town and village centres and communities. The parish council's Horndean Green Trail and Heritage Network Strategy Proposal would seem to be a perfect fit. Angela Glass, the Portfolio Holder for Regulation & Enforcement also mentioned in her report that applications for CIL infrastructure funding were not coming forward from the south. We hope to see applications for this funding from Horndean Parish Council when the next round opens.

Local Plan

Following feedback from residents following the Reg 18 consultation on the Local Plan, EHDC sought advice from Counsel on whether the planning rules would allow for the district to adjust the housing need numbers due to the South Downs National Park covering 57% of the district and therefore restricting the area available for development. The feedback was essentially, no.

Obviously, since then we have had a change of government who have put out a consultation document which includes a change to the standard method for calculating housing numbers. This change would increase the base requirement for EHDC (across the district) from 575 dwellings per annum to 1074 dwellings per annum. It would also put back the requirement for a five year housing land supply, which would apply even if a local plan was in date. Supporting infrastructure is also linked to any development. It is very early yet and EHDC will need to consider how they now proceed with the local plan process. It appears this would delay the local plan further and still leave EHDC open to speculative development.

Cllr Elaine Woodard – Horndean Murray ward

Cllr James Hogan – Horndean Downs ward