

District Councillor Report to HPC 24th August 2020

Cllr David Evans, Kings & Blendworth Ward, Assistant to the Planning Portfolio holder.

Normal Council operations have had to be dramatically altered because of Covid 19 and Lockdown. All key front line services such a waste collection have continued but with 80%+ of the staff working from home and normal visits by officers around the District strictly for emergencies only, some things have been affected and some have taken longer to execute than previously.

Nevertheless, work on essential strategy's and policies as well as Planning, both Policy and dealing with Applications has been continued.

LEOH: The application for the main site, 55562/005, areas B & C the sections south of Rowlands Castle Road, came before the (virtual) Planning Committee meeting on 11th June. This was an outline application dealing only with access to the site with all other matters left to come forward in a future "reserved matters" application. In its submission, HPC noted that its detailed objections had either been met, covered by conditions or were for discussion at the "reserved matters". The application was approved. Work is proceeding on the applications /006,7 & 8 which cover the rest of the original site.

Work on the draft Local Plan has continued. The results of the further consultation on 10 possible "Large Sites" (>600 dwellings) was announced in June and the proposed "Extension to LEOH", along with 8 others, were determined to be not "technically ready for allocation" and so will not be submitted with this plan.

At the Extraordinary Council meeting on 13th August four major strategy documents were presented and adopted. As the Press Release stated, these are

- Corporate Strategy – an overarching document setting out the direction of the council
- Welfare and Wellbeing Strategy – how the council will bridge the gap between those residents that enjoy the best and worst welfare and wellbeing
- Digital Strategy – how the council will use technology for the benefit of residents
- Climate and Environment Strategy – how the council will tackle the climate emergency and how, with partners and the community, the changes needed for a sustainable future can be made.

Other items agreed at this meeting included the four-yearly review of Councillor's Allowances which is carried out by an independent panel. The Leader introduced the item saying that he believed that when so many of our residents were suffering loss of income or jobs, members should not accept the recommended increases. This was agreed – members allowances will therefore not change.