RINGMER Parish Council

Newsletter – December 2024

Parish Councillors

We extend a warm welcome to Alan West who joined as a co-opted Councillor at the November meeting. We still have three vacancies for any residents who may be interested in becoming a Parish Councillor. We would very much welcome representation from younger residents. Please contact the Clerk for more information.

Ringmer Neighbourhood Plan

Residents were invited to attend a consultation on Saturday 30th November 2024 at the Village Hall to find out more about the review through an interactive display and discussions with Steering Group members. We would encourage all village residents to complete the survey which can be found at:

https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/Ringmer1

The steering group would like to review the survey results at the end of December. For more information, please contact the Steering Group at:

RNP@ringmerparishcouncil.gov.uk

Lewes Local Plan

The Clerk attended a meeting of the Steering Group for the Lewes Local Plan in November 2024. She was advised that a decision would be made at Cabinet on 5th December 2024 as to what would be included in the Reg 18 consultation. This was not known at time of print. LDC are still waiting for transport details including modelling from ESCC. It may be that they will decide on a partial consultation, depending on what information they have available. There is also a possibility that they will wait until they have everything before going out to consultation.

The consultation will be for a minimum of 8 weeks and we were advised it could happen as quickly as late December - all parish participants requested that it didn't take place over Christmas as no one would be focussed and therefore time would be lost. Having listened to feedback from the last consultation they envisage that there will be a short series of explanatory webinars, with a longer notice period and more simplistic language where possible.

Fingerpost Field Skatepark

ESCC have agreed to finance the construction of the access path from the B2192 into the skatepark. This will be undertaken by a local firm at no cost to the Council. We are awaiting a commencement date for this.

Shopping Precinct Revamp

The budget for the proposed refurbishment of the precinct was approved by Parish Cllrs at their Full Council meeting of 12/11/2024. The plans for the shopping precinct revamp were shown at the NHP consultation event and are available at the Parish Office for those who could not attend but are interested in seeing them. The architects will be approached to produce a tender document.

Improving the Natural Environment in Ringmer

The wildflower beds in the Pump House and behind the Memorial Bench on the Village Green have been cleared and sown with a cornfield seed mixture ready to provide a colourful display in 2025. The SDNP Biodiversity Officer and the newly appointed East Area Park Ranger visited in November and provided some encouraging, positive feedback on the work being done in the Almond Field and the other areas where Wildflower Ringmer volunteers are working to increase biodiversity.

If you have still to plant spring flowering corms and bulbs remember that only crocuses and alliums are species that support the early season pollinators. As the colder weather appears to have started, we can support our bird populations by putting out seeds and other types of wild bird foods.