

Report from Cllr Emily O'Brien for July 2023 Ringmer Parish Council meeting

Our petition on HGV traffic which was county wide but originated in and was widely supported in Ringmer, and which specifically requested that the county council introduce a lorry route network, has been scheduled to appear at a lead member meeting in September this year. Meanwhile it is encouraging that the county council apparently is hearing the pressure on this and has committee to considering a road freight strategy as part of the next local transport plan, currently in development. I attended the opening of the new A27 cycle and walking route to Polegate, which has been extremely well designed by National Highways and has been widely welcomed. Let's hope the county council look to this example in their future planning on cycle provision. I took the chance to chat with National Highways regarding issue with the crossing time allowed between Glynde and Firle.

I spoke at the Gleasons/Glyndebourne appeal and stressed that as a ward councillor I consider the traffic implications are unacceptable. I also referenced the motion that was unanimously passed at Lewes district council which stresses that the 'duty to connect' is failing in our planning system and our deep concern about sewage discharge increasing including at Ringmer water treatment works and the links with new development.

I had a wonderful tour of the wildflower planting areas with Wildflower Ringmer and took two new councillors along so they could learn from Ringmer's experience for their areas.

I am currently at the local government Association's annual conference and was disappointed when Michael Gove yesterday asked to provide clarity on timescale for the new NPPF being published – so vital for enabling areas to progress their local plans -replied that it would be published alongside the levelling up bill, when that is given royal assent which is a completely unknown quantity, indeed there are concerns that it might not even get there in this parliament.

I'm being considered as one of three candidates to follow Caroline Lucas as the parliamentary candidate for Brighton Pavilion constituency. This is an interesting experience to say the least, given this is the highest profile role in the Green Party. The decision will be known on 19th July 2023.