

Cllr Johnny Denis Report for December 2022

Ringmer Pool

I've been following up from a Lewes District Council perspective and hope to bring a current update to the Council Mtg on Tuesday. I have heard how officers have been working to get current costs of the building, have had independent assessment of the structure, have sought technical advice over some aspects of the pool, the air mechanism and pool pumps. I know that up-to-date figures have now been acquired and that dialogue is ongoing with East Sussex County Council.

Planning

It is great news to see that the Government has announced a change of direction with its proposed move towards making housing targets advisory rather than mandatory. If this had been in place earlier, none of the 3 Appeals brought by developers and heard recently by planning inspectors would have been successful, in my opinion. The legislation still needs to come forward and be approved.

The Boklok development has been refused on 3 grounds. For the first time impacts on drainage and sewers was given as a reason. This gives good grounds for defence of the Neighbourhood plan and from other overdevelopment in the future where they are dependent on the overburdened Ringmer waste treatment works.

This week's Cabinet Mtg heard how the Sussex Flow initiative had over the last couple of years reduced or prevented flooding in the upper Ouse catchment. The report specifically mentioned the Cheyney's field attenuation ponds and the reduced risk of flooding to, I think, 16 homes, identified as being at risk. I am asking for more data on this such as how many litres were caught in recent heavy rains.

Parish

I have been contacted by someone interested in joining the Parish Council. They have contacted the Parish office to that effect. I have offered some background to how the council works and give them confidence to pursue this role should a vacancy become available or when an election is called. Happy to take further referrals from anyone interested in joining the council.

East Sussex Association of Local Councils

While representing a neighbouring council, I met up with Cllr Sims at the recent East Sussex Association of Local Councils Conference where we heard about election timetable for next year and the purdah period during which the Council is forbidden from appearing to support any councillor – all announcements should be done by officers on behalf of the council during this time. We all cease to be councillors on the Monday after the election – however this is a bank holiday for the coronation so Tuesday will be the effective end of our terms of office and the start of our term if elected on Thursday 4th May 2023.

As ever if the council wants to ask me stuff drop me a line at

Johnny.denis@lewes.gov.uk for Lewes District related questions

Cllr.johnny.denis@eastsussex.gov.uk for East Sussex related questions

Using my Ringmer PC email address means I won't see it at the right moment and will have to send it on to when I'm in the correct work mode.