

Update for Ringmer Parish Council  
May 2022

Sorry I am unable to join you at your meeting tonight. I just wanted to update you on a number of issues since your last meeting.

**1) Ringmer Swimming Pool**

I am urging local residents in Ringmer to take part in a consultation on the future of the local swimming pool. A 12-week consultation will invite ideas and suggestions for the financially sustainable future management of the pool. The consultation will start on Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> May via an online survey at <https://consultation.eastsussex.gov.uk/> Paper copies of the survey are also available at County Hall, Lewes and by post, on request. I know that many residents in Ringmer are very concerned about the future of the Swimming Pool and I would urge as many people as possible to take part in the consultation to ensure that a wide range of views are taken.

**2) Norlington Lane Ovesco Solar Farm, LW/22/0254**

The Planning Application for the 70-acre Ovesco solar farm on Norlington Lane has gone in recently and public comments close very soon on the 13<sup>th</sup> of May and residents' comments on 19<sup>th</sup>. It is very important that residents make their views heard regarding this use by Lewes District Council of £100,000 of local taxpayers' money to fund this project, so do submit your comments. This can be done on the Lewes District Council website here: <https://planningpa.lewes.gov.uk/online-applications/simpleSearchResults.do?action=firstPage>

**3) Planning**

I was pleased to hear that the application for Rangers Farm in Ringmer has been rejected. Had this been approved by local councilors on Lewes District Council, I had called this application in with the Secretary of State for review meaning we could appeal the decision as it was not in the Ringmer neighbourhood plan or the council's local plan. Well done to all those who worked so hard to see this off as it is so important that we protect our green spaces as once built on they are gone forever.

**4) Scrapping Tip charges to prevent fly-tipping**

I am backing government plans to scrap charges for households to get rid of household waste at the tip. The rules currently allow some Local Authorities to charge for DIY waste from households. Under the proposals, household DIYers would not be charged to get rid of waste including plasterboards, bricks and bath units. We need to make it as easy as possible for residents to be able to safely and properly dispose of household waste, meaning that no one is using cost as an attempt to excuse fly-tipping.

#### **5) £1m in Levelling up Funding for Lewes District Council**

I welcome the investment of £1,000,000 through the UK Shared Prosperity Fund ('UKSPF'), the Government has announced for Lewes District Council. This can be used across a range of projects from supporting adults who lack basic numeracy skills, helping young people into good jobs, and regenerating our high streets. This investment will help local residents fulfill their potential while reducing regional inequalities that have been left untouched for too long.

#### **6) £41.1 million of funding for better bus services in East Sussex**

Bus networks form the spine of local transport networks. But for decades too many communities have been let down by poor bus infrastructure. That is why I am delighted East Sussex is receiving £41.4 million of new funding to boost our bus services; transforming our local transport network to deliver cheaper, more reliable, and more frequent services for passengers. This will mean that passengers across East Sussex will get a better deal, with a local transport network they can truly rely on.

#### **7) £150 Council Tax Rebate**

The Government has now introduced a £150 council tax rebate to support households in the Lewes constituency and across the country to keep the cost of living down. Where council tax is paid by direct debit, households should have automatically received the £150 rebate in April. Households that do not pay by direct debit will be contacted by their council and made aware of the scheme.

#### **8) Over one million half price rail tickets to benefit people in the Lewes Constituency**

Through the Great British Rail sale, the Conservative Government are offering over a million rail tickets for passengers at 50 per cent off. This is the first nationwide rail sale in history. Tickets are on sale for journeys taking place between 25 April to 27 May – offering passengers significant savings on journeys in and across the UK. The discount will be available on selected Advance tickets from participating train companies, or Off-Peak tickets as an alternative on some routes. Customers can find out more by visiting [greatbritishrailsale.nationalrail.co.uk](https://greatbritishrailsale.nationalrail.co.uk)