

Maria Caulfield's Update for Ringmer Parish Council

Sept 2023

Please accept my apologies that I am unable to join you at your upcoming meeting. I do however have the following updates for the parish.

Northeast Manor Funding Secured

Northeast Manor School specialises in educating young people with Special Educational Needs, maintaining a strong reputation for supporting local and non-local students. East Sussex County Council has announced that funding for Northeast Manor School has been secured for the next three years. Negotiations between East Sussex County Council, Northeast Manor School, Brighton and Hove Council, and West Sussex Council have successfully concluded in agreement for fees covering the academic years 2023/24, 2024/25, and 2025/26.

I welcomed the news, emphasising its positive impact on children and families and I commend East Sussex County Council's efforts in a challenging financial environment.

1,000 more GP's sign up for new telephone system

Despite the NHS app's introduction, most local practices haven't offered direct digital booking. To alleviate this, over 1,000 more practices have adopted a national digital phone upgrade, backed by £240 million, to eliminate engaged tones and improve call routing efficiency. This initiative is aligned with the Prime Minister's primary care recovery plan, aiming to enhance patient access. Practices are expected to implement the new system nationwide by year-end, streamlining appointments and assessments, with urgent cases receiving same-day attention and non-urgent ones within two weeks. The integration of digital phone technology stands to significantly improve patient experience.

Forthcoming Levelling Up Votes

I recognise that many people across the entire constituency feel strongly about reforming our planning system, and rightly so. The planning system is at the heart of the homes we live in, the schools our children go to and the community spaces we all enjoy. The Government consulted on its plans to update the National Planning Policy Framework and I

am confident that the Levelling Up and Regeneration Bill will give local communities more control over what is built, where it is built and what it looks like. For instance, the Government's standard method for assessing housing needs provides a clear starting point for local planning authorities. As part of its proposed changes to the National Planning Policy Framework, the Government consulted on making clear that these figures should be an advisory starting point, a guide that is not mandatory. Local authorities – who know their local areas best – will then work with their communities to determine how many homes can be built, factoring in constraints such as Green Belt and taking into account the character of an area.

Government Suicide Prevention Fund for Charity Sector to be Boosted

Every single suicide is a tragedy - one which still affects too many people in England. Heartbreakingly, it is still the biggest killer of men under 35. This £10 million fund for the voluntary and charity sector will help people nationwide receive crucial mental health support and builds on the success of previous funds, which supported tens of thousands of people approaching a crisis.

Charities in communities across England can now [apply for the latest round of funding from the Suicide Prevention Grant Fund](#) which will ensure as many people as possible can access the support and prevention services they need, when they need it. Funding will also help prevent people reaching crisis point and reduce future demand for these services across both the charity sector and the NHS.