

June update - Cllr Emily O'Brien

As ever planning issues play a key role, across the whole spectrum from local plan development through to trying to mitigate the impact of development on local residents when new (often unwelcome) development is starting on site. Re. the local plan, the late submission of a number of sites to the Land Availability Assessment is unhelpful to say the least. The new sites will be shared with Town and Parish Councils in line with the transparent approach taken previously.

The general election has obviously affected some council activities to ensure compliance with the pre-election period e.g. some meetings have had to be postponed, but most business continues as usual. Of interest to Ringmer is that should there be a new Labour government (as opinion polls indicate is likely) there are to be substantial changes to the planning system aimed at upping the rate of housebuilding. We will of course be keeping an eye on changes in the offing.

Under my cabinet portfolio the EV charging programme is almost complete (NB this is EV charging in LDC owned car parks – kerbside charging is a separate programme led by county council). The Cockshut Stream (Lewes) public opening has been delayed due to the wet spring and should take place in the next couple of weeks. I have continued to meet with Southeast Water and Ofwat regarding concerns over Southeast Water's intention in their strategic plan to extract water from the River Ouse to fill their proposed second reservoir at Arlington. Ofwat's decision on whether to allow [Southern Water's proposed 91% bill increase](#) over the next 5 years has been postponed until after the election so it is not yet clear whether the money they have proposed spending in our district including Ringmer will materialise or not.

Obviously we are all very excited by the reopening of Ringmer pool in the Autumn, which I am sure Johnny will update on.