

## **September Report for Ringmer Parish Council**

### **Cllr Lucy Agace**

I have been meeting with Neil Collins Head of Development at LDC, and he is continually looking at ways to improve our planning system, especially to frontload systems where there are more requirements for developers to apply with more information rather than 'yes we'll organise that nearer the time'. He is not averse to using Grampian conditions, and in fact is looking at it right now, along with other infrastructure issues, because he wants to apply a holistic approach to these issues. It can be described as imposing a 'local validation requirement' and will be implemented soon.

To explain further, with regards to foul and surface water drainage (huge issues across the district villages which no one is happy about) developers will shortly need to demonstrate drainage services (a foul drainage capacity study) are agreed with the provider at the Pre-app stage. Developers will need to get involved with Southern Water at this stage. When it comes to the consultation stage it will make it very difficult for SW to 'green light' something unless they have demonstrated that in the study. On top of this LDC will not view the use of tankers to manage waste streams as acceptable. So, the study will be so detailed officers and possibly PAC members will have much more detailed info to make informed decisions, which I think we agree would be so much better. This will also apply to bus services, which Linda has asked me about recently, in order to safeguard reliable and futureproof services for our residents.

We are also looking to hire a technical expert to help assess the new reports that will be presented to us, and with this assessment (our own) we can defend our decisions better.

As far as I know we have not managed to get any new planners, and the LDC planning dept are increasingly overloaded. This has caused a backup of assessment work for the many major applications that we have received. I know Neil would be happy for me to send his apologies for the amount of time it is taking them to respond.

With best wishes,

Lucy Agace

Green Party Councillor Ouse Valley Ringmer  
Chair LDC Planning Applications Committee