

District Councillor Emily O'Brien

July 2026 Report

I have been following up a number of queries relating to housing and green spaces from local residents. I also relayed concerns of Ringmer residents relating to the heatwave and impact on residents being able to attend the last planning committee, which was subsequently cancelled. I submitted comments on the A26 Major Road Network Corridor Improvement Scheme around the need for safer cycling in the section where a local cyclist was tragically killed last year and which has long been under served.

District Wide, I attended the launch of 'Sussex Six' – an online directory (and more) within Lewes District which LDC have funded. **Please do encourage and local food or drink producers to sign up to it**, it's free and provides a useful platform for businesses or individual who do want to source locally to access information on how and where they can. More information and a link here - <https://www.lewes-eastbourne.gov.uk/article/5085/Sussex-Six-Food-Drink-Campaign-Launched-in-Lewes-District>

In my role working with and challenging water companies I have

- Chaired the Southern Water Stakeholder Group on 2/7/2026, had planned to have chief exec Laurence Gosden but he was unwell so being rearranged. Meeting continued to challenge on issues from bio beads to planning.
- Attended Wilder Ouse conference on 26/6
- Session with SE water at Arlington Reservoir 12/6
- Attended SE Water Sustainable water management and drought resilience workshop, held at marine workshops – partnership planning of new drought plan, these meetings emerged as a result of first session convened by LDC.

I have also been focussed on local government reorganisation including my role around green spaces, which as you are aware we have focused on ensuring appropriate protection going forward, including accepting expressions of interest for transfer. Ringmer PC is the first to have transfer of a green space (Finger Post field) under this process. We expect the government decision on the shape of the new authority this week.

Nationally, I have had an extremely busy month setting up the new Green Party group within the LGA then attending and presenting at the annual conference so please bear with me if I am behind on any queries. For urgent issues that can't wait please feel free to call or WhatsApp

Warm regards

Emily O'Brien (She/her)

Green Party Councillor for Ouse Valley & Ringmer

Cabinet Member for Nature, Climate & Food Systems at Lewes District Council

Leader of the Green Group at the Local Government Association (LGA)