

Newsletter from Maresfield Parish Council

October 2021

As I write this Newsletter each month I think it tends to be repetitive – repeating that we still need some parishioners to step forward to serve on the Parish Council; repeating that dog waste remains a real problem in the Parish (especially on Maresfield Recreation Ground and our other public open spaces – please pick it up and put in the bin or take it home); repeating that property owners bordering a foot path must keep their hedges etc trimmed back; and repeating that we carry out successful Speedwatch activity but still need more volunteers. I make no apologies for this repetition!

The Parish Council sets a budget each year and this expenditure becomes the Parish Precept part of your annual Council Tax Bill. The budget setting process for next year starts at the October 7th meeting of the Finance and Administration Committee. All Parish Council and Committee meetings are open to the public and are now being held in one of our Villages' halls and start with an allocated time for members of the public to raise issues and ask questions. It would help if you would let the Parish Clerk (714555) know that you are attending.

Many thanks to all those who responded to my paragraph last month about London Road/School Hill in Maresfield. Many people feel that the traffic in Maresfield is getting worse and too much traffic (especially in the rush hours) seems to be going through the Village when it could (should!) be using the by-pass. However before any suggestions are formulated into a scheme proposal we do need to know the facts and have expert advice. So the Parish Council will be considering commissioning an appropriate consultant to examine all the relevant issues and come up with viable ideas.

Wealden District Council published the *Wealden Local Housing Needs Assessment* in early September as part of its evidence base for the new Local Plan. This document confirms that Wealden will be planning for 1,225 new homes each year for the Plan period (to 2030 and beyond) compared with 450 homes per year in the last 2013 Core Strategy when Maresfield Parish was allocated 50 in total for that plan period. Planning Applications for over twice that number were subsequently approved for the Parish though mainly (because of the Ashdown Forest) in Maresfield Village. We are very anxious to know how many new homes will be allocated to Maresfield in the new Plan which is expected to be published in draft form for consultation next Spring. Meanwhile our Neighbourhood Development Plan Site Assessment team is looking at all the sites in the Parish put forward to Wealden as candidates for consideration for the Plan. We will then have the information to formulate the appropriate policies for our NDP as well being able to engage with developers and Wealden as early as possible to influence any development proposals being put together and Planning Applications which may come forward.

To keep up to date about local matters the internet and social media are invaluable resources. Useful links are:
<https://my.wealden.gov.uk/> <http://www.maresfieldparish.org.uk/>

<http://www.uckfieldtc.gov.uk/> <https://www.ashdownforest.org/>

And you can also follow us on Twitter and Facebook.

Martin Craddock – Chairman Maresfield Parish Council