

Newsletter from Maresfield Parish Council

October 2022

As I write this Newsletter the result of the election for a new District Councillor to represent Maresfield Ward is not known but none the less the Parish Council looks forward to forging a relationship with and working with our new Councillor for the benefit of our community.

I hope you don't find some messages in this newsletter too repetitive, but with the recent resignation of one of our Parish Councillors who is moving out of the Parish, we do need parishioners to step forward to serve on the Parish Council. Currently we only have ten Councillors out of our quota of fourteen. Please contact the Parish Clerk for more information.

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 11th meeting of the Finance and Administration Committee. All Parish Council and Committee meetings are open to the public and are held in one of our Villages' halls or in the Parish Office. All meetings 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.

Wealden District Council is now hoping to publish its draft Local Plan in late 2022 or early 2023 and I understand that there is now the expectation that the new annual housing numbers in that Plan will be well below the 1225 previously indicated. However, the number is still going to be considerably in excess of the 450 homes per year in the last 2013 Core Strategy Plan 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 draft Plan. 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