

## **Newsletter from Maresfield Parish Council - February 2023**

### **A repeated word or two about Planning !**

I make no apologies for reverting to “Planning” yet again as I believe once Wealden’s draft Local Plan is published this will be a main topic of discussion in Maresfield and it will prove to be very contentious for some Maresfield Village residents. Parishioners will be aware that Wealden District Council’s original draft Local Plan was withdrawn in early 2020 and consequently Wealden’s existing planning policies are deemed to be out of date. With less than a five-year housing land supply, no up to date Local Plan and Government policy favouring sustainable development Wealden is finding it difficult to repel some developers’ ambitions.

We had hoped Wealden’s new draft Local Plan would have been published by now but it is further delayed as the Government has recently issued a planning consultation document which could influence Wealden’s approach and a delay will also be inevitable because of the forthcoming local elections in May.

When the draft Plan is published and open for consultation The Parish Council will organise local events to inform residents about the Plan and to hear residents’ views which will be taken into account in formulating the Parish Council’s formal response as well providing additional information for our Neighbourhood Development Plan team.

### **The Parish Precept**

At the Parish Council meeting on Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> December the Parish Council resolved to approve the draft budget for 2023/24 in the amount of £102,922. This is an increase of 10.1% over the current year’s budget but of only 4.2% over the estimated expenditure for 2022/23.

After making adjustments to reserves the Parish Council resolved to set the Precept for 2023/24 at £99,892.

Whilst this is an increase of 5.1% over the current year’s precept, due to an increase in the Council Tax base for Maresfield Parish, the increase per average Band D household is estimated to be just 2.7%.

### **Hedge cutting**

Where you have hedges bordering on footpaths or the highway it is your (the property owner’s) responsibility to ensure that they do not encroach. Please inspect your hedges etc. and cut them back now, well before the nesting season when such action is not allowed.

### **The Marjory Pegg Award**

It has been decided that no awards will be considered for this year and the Parish Council will decide at a future meeting how the Award scheme should function and its frequency.

### **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 the Parish Council on Twitter and Facebook.

**Martin Craddock** – Chairman Maresfield Parish Council