

## Newsletter from Maresfield Parish Council – May 2023

### Ashdown Business Park Expansion

We now understand that the current planning application for the expansion of Maresfield Business Park will not be considered by Wealden's Planning Committee North until June at the earliest and it is possible that it could be amended. At the end of March I, together with the Chairs of Fletching and Isfield Parish Councils, met with Ann Newton, the Leader of Wealden District Council (and the Planning Portfolio holder), when we impressed upon her the extent and depth of the opposition to the Business Park Expansion Application. A vigorous Action Group (SABRE) has been formed to fight the application and a copy of the Parish Council's Objection submission is available on the PC website: <https://www.maresfieldparish.org.uk/>

### Local Elections – Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> May

Just a reminder that the new regulations require you to produce photographic evidence of your identity when you come to the Polling Station. Our election is to elect a District Councillor to represent Maresfield ward (ie. Fairwarp, Maresfield and Nutley). Twelve valid nominations were received for the fourteen Parish Councillor vacancies in our Parish so these persons (all existing Parish Councillors) are deemed to have been elected unopposed.

### The Uckfield Leisure Centre

This is a popular facility used by many in our Parish.

Wealden District Council ("Wealden") has leased the Leisure Centre from East Sussex County Council ("the County Council") since 2002. The lease will end in July 2023. The Leisure Centre is currently managed by a leisure services provider, Freedom Leisure Limited. Wealden has decided not to extend further the current arrangements and now the County Council is considering the Leisure Centre's future.

Please give your views on the Leisure Centre's future to the County Council by completing the on-line survey at <https://consultation.eastsussex.gov.uk/business-services/consultation-on-future-options-for-uckfield-leisure/consultation/>

### Report a Highways Issue

The state of our local roads including the number of potholes is deplorable and the Parish Council applies pressure wherever it can to get the County Council to make repairs. There is a facility on the County Council web site for reporting highway issues – not just potholes. Please use this as the more residents report the issues the more likely it is that some action will be taken. The link is <https://www.eastsussexhighways.com/report-a-problem>

### Annual Parish Assembly

Our Annual Assembly will be held on the evening of Tuesday May 30<sup>th</sup> at 7 for 7.30 in the Fairwarp Village Hall. Ruby Brittle and her colleague Dale Poore of East Sussex Highways have kindly agreed to be our speakers and I am sure they will also be happy to hear Parishioners' views and answer your questions on any highways matter. Please come along to meet them that evening.

### 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