

Newsletter from Maresfield Parish Council – May 2024

Wealden draft Local Plan

The new Wealden Local Plan was published at the end of February and is currently out for consultation which closes on 10th May. A copy of the Plan is available to view in the Parish Office; otherwise it is available on the Wealden web site. Do read it as it contains a great amount of interesting and significant information as well as proposals for development over the next 15 years in our Parish and neighbouring Uckfield and Buxted.

Housing development – two sites are allocated in the draft Plan in Maresfield village. 210 homes are allocated to the land south and south west of the Recreation Ground and the field by the indoor bowling centre is allocated for 25 homes. In addition Maresfield is expected to accommodate a further 61 windfall new homes. No sites for development are allocated in Nutley or Fairwarp largely because of their proximity to the Ashdown Forest.

Commercial (Employment) development – no land is allocated in Maresfield for commercial development but the Plan seeks to justify a very large need for such development in Wealden and names the expansion of the Ashdown Business Park as possibly fulfilling this requirement. In the meantime the Planning Application made over a year ago for a massive expansion of the Ashdown Business Park, which the Parish Council vigorously opposed, remains undetermined by Wealden.

The Parish Council is considering its responses to the Plan's various proposals and will submit these to Wealden. However I urge all parishioners to look at the draft Plan and submit your comments, plaudits and objections to the various proposals and policies. It is important that as many people as possible do respond to Wealden's consultation so that Wealden can consider all the points raised and also understand and gauge local feeling towards their development proposals.

Annual Parish Assembly

Our Annual Assembly will be held on the evening of Tuesday May 21st at 7 for 7.30 in the Fairwarp Village Hall. It will be an Open Forum and we hope to have our County and District Councillors with us. Please come along with your questions, complaints and comments!

Required – New Parish Councillors

Due to recent resignations we have the opportunity to co-opt new members to the Parish Council. Being a Parish Councillor is an interesting and worthwhile position in the community and if you would like information as to what it involves please contact Nancy our Parish Clerk on 01825 714555 or email at clerk@maresfieldparish.org.uk .

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

