

Newsletter from Maresfield Parish Council

December 2024

Finance

The Parish Council is setting a budget for the next financial year (2025/26) and this expenditure becomes the basis of the Parish Precept part of your annual Council Tax Bill. The budget setting process commenced at the October meeting of the Finance and Administration Committee and will culminate in the Parish Council approving the Budget and Precept proposals at its meeting on December 17th. All Parish Council and Committee meetings are open to the public and start with an allocated time for members of the public to raise issues and ask questions. Please contact the Parish Clerk for an invitation.

Wealden Local Plan

Consultation on Wealden District Council's draft Local Plan closed in May and since then officers have been considering the thousands of comments received. Many of these submissions are available to read on line in Wealden's Consultation Portal. A revised draft Plan will be published in due course but there are still major uncertainties surrounding changes to government planning policies and housing targets. So we expect further delays in Wealden producing its revised draft.

Community Speedwatch

We have a dedicated, but too small, team of volunteers who regularly carry out vehicle speed monitoring at various locations in the Parish. You may have seen them in teams of two in their hi-vis yellow jackets. During the last year details of 1,304 vehicles were submitted to the authorities with information about the excessive speeds recorded. The Police send warning letters to the vehicle owners and should an owner receive three letters the Police will carry out further investigation. More volunteers are urgently needed in our Parish so if you can spare two or three hours a month please contact the Parish Clerk. Full training is given and operators are equipped with body cameras, recording both sound and vision, and any abuse is reported to the Police.

May I take this opportunity, on behalf of our Parish Councillors, our Clerk and her team, to wish all our Parishioners a Very Happy Christmas and a Peaceful and Safe New Year.

Parish Office visiting hours are 10.30 to 12.30 Monday to Friday by prior appointment, please. (E-mail clerk@maresfieldparish.org.uk or phone 714555).

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