

Planning - New Homes for Maresfield Village

In Wealden District Council's draft Local Plan published last spring 25 new homes were allocated to a site bordering the Indoor Bowls Club, the A22 and Limestone Way (Wellington Gate) subject to a suitable access being available. In May an Outline Planning Application for 41 homes, later reduced to 37, was submitted with access down Limestone Way for both construction traffic and residents traffic. The Application has been objected to by many local people as well as the Parish Council and our District Councillor primarily because the access proposals are totally unacceptable. East Sussex CC Highways, who are consultees on highway and road safety matters, also objected to the Application in July but in December recommended approval subject to various conditions. Limestone Way is a quiet residential cul de sac not designed nor constructed to be an access route. It does not even meet the standard or dimensions required by ESCC Highways for the roads on the proposed development, the proposed restrictions on parking for a period which could extend to two years are unacceptable and there are real physical constraints which would hamper construction traffic. Alternative accesses either off the A22 or through the Bowling Club car park do not appear to have been considered. We trust that Wealden's Planning Committee North rejects the Application.

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.

Local Government Devolution

The Government has published a White Paper on English Local Government Devolution envisaging much larger strategic or regional authorities. These plans for a significant redesign of local government could see the abolition of district councils and the introduction of more elected mayors across England. This move aims to streamline services and enhance local governance. Locally the cabinets of East Sussex CC, West Sussex CC and Brighton and Hove City Council are going to apply to the Government to scrap county council elections due to take place this May, which will put them on a fast track to preparing to elect members of a new (combined) strategic authority – and a mayor of Sussex. In order that local people do not feel disenfranchised it seems to me that Town and Parish Councils will have to have a greater part to play in Local Government but this does not seem to be covered in the White Paper.

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 X (Twitter) and Facebook.

Martin Craddock – Chairman Maresfield Parish Council