

Report for District Councillor 10th January

I hope everyone had a good family holiday over the Christmas period and were able to meet as many family members and friends as they could safely do so.

Unfortunately not too much to report since the December update but of course everyone has still been working and providing services at the Council but there was a period where the office was closed. Our Bins may have been collected a little later than normal but as far as I know all collected.

Covid continues to spread and is a worry to hospitals etc. I am sure Cllr Hicks will continue to update us on figures etc. In the meantime I have just heard we can now move to online committee meetings. Licensing sub committees have remained thus. In fact I have a licensing hearing on Wednesday on teams meetings on line.

I have also sent Pauline a link to an event – again on line from the Police where they are looking to see if there are any potential budding Police Specials. A very valid service so please take a look if you are interested. Whilst on the subject of police there is an on line survey on potential increases for the Police's share of the Council tax.

On that point the Council will shortly be discussing council tax for next year and I think we may have some exciting news but we will have to wait and see.

As regards the Joint Local Plan you may have seen in the papers that part of it has been accepted by the Inspector which is good news. What that means is they are going to deal with it in two parts to allow the Plan to move forwards. In essence a part 1 plan would contain the majority of the strategic policies and development Management policies with Policy SPO4 regarding housing spatial distribution moved to a part 2 plan along with updated open space designation as site allocations. Settlement boundaries would also be updated in a part 2 plan the part 1 would retain the current adopted settlement boundaries in existing adopted Plans. The housing requirement figures for neighbourhood plans would also be in a part 2 plan.

I have received an application from the Bedingfield Village Hall trust for monies from my Locality budget and I am just awaiting another small application but hope to have some very good news for you too later this week!

Stay safe kind regards

Kathie Guthrie

District Councillor