

Parish Council News - June 2024

Our Neighbourhood Plan

Following the Regulation 16 Examination we have submitted the amendments requested by the Examiner Christopher Lockhart-Mummery KC to Wealden District Council.

Unfortunately, the forthcoming General Election has delayed the process as we have been informed by Wealden District Council (WDC) that their legal advice is that a decision can't be made during the Election period. Therefore, WDC have stated that they are going to refrain from decision making on neighbourhood planning, including making a decision to proceed to a referendum for the EHWH NDP during the Pre-Election Period. This means that the proposed timetable needs to be amended, and mindful of the statutory timeframes, WDC aim to have a portfolio holder decision made shortly after the General Election with a decision published on or around 16th July. The referendum needs to be held within 56 working days so we are looking for a date at the end of August.

We will provide further updates as they become available.

Community Orchard, Wildflower Meadow and the D-Day Tree

The Parish Council has applied for a grant for fruit trees to form a small Community Orchard at the top of the Playing field in the Wildflower area and we are delighted to confirm that funding has been approved. The wildflower meadow is maintained for us and has been reseeded so, together with the wildflower area at the Fire Site by the Pavilion courtesy of the Carnival Society, we hope for a great display later this summer.

We have also planted an oak tree (*Quercus Robur*) at the Playing Fields. This tree is to celebrate and recognise the 80th Anniversary of D-Day.

Halland Development – Oakleigh Garden Community

Councillors from East Hoathly with Halland Parish Council and Loughton Parish Council met with representatives for the proposed Oakleigh Garden Community on 12th June. We were given a presentation regarding their proposals and were provided with an opportunity to ask questions.

In accordance with guidance from the Society of Local Clerks it is important to state that this meeting was held with the purpose of learning more about the proposed developments and its implications, not to form a view or make a decision.

In brief, the proposed development covers a 324 hectare site and proposes 4441 houses (to include 35% affordable), 7-10 hectares of employment space, 1 secondary and 2 primary schools, 2 or 3 large care homes/villages, 100+ hectares of green space, a new community centre with space for shops, dentist, GP surgery, restaurant/pub/takeaway and a community meeting space. A sports hub is also proposed that could provide outdoor cricket, tennis, rugby, football and tennis facilities.

The landowner is keen that the development is community driven and so intends to communicate fully with local residents - what is being presented is very much a first concept. It is intended that there will be a full programme of public engagement to include workshops, exhibitions and a website.

It is important to also state at this stage that this proposal has been put forward in response to the first phase (Reg 18) of consultation on the draft Wealden Local Plan. The proposal does not form part of the draft Local Plan, and in the coming months it will be for officers at WDC to consider and assess the site, and the proposal, and to respond. For avoidance of doubt this is Not a current planning application and is still in very early stages of discussion.

As further information, together with timescale becomes available, we will share this with Parishioners. In the meantime we have consent to share the Vision Document which can be found on our website.

Meeting Dates 2024

Full Council

Monday 24 th June	Monday 29 th July	No meeting in August	Monday 30 th September
Monday 28 th October	Monday 25 th November	No meeting in December	

Finance & General Purposes Committee

Monday 9th September Monday 11th November

Planning Committee

Meetings will be held as needed

Members of the Public are welcome and encouraged to attend these meetings. At the start of each meeting, the first 15 minutes of the meeting are available to the public to express a view or ask a question on relevant matters on the agenda. Members of the public and press are also welcome to stay and observe the rest of the meeting (subject to any items considered confidential with the terms of the Public Bodies (admission to meetings) Act 1960.

Councillor Vacancy

We currently have a vacancy for a councillor. If you would like to find out what is involved, please contact either myself or the Clerk, Malcolm Ramsden (clerk@easthoathlywithhalland.org.uk)

Tania Freezer

Chair, East Hoathly with Halland Parish Council

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