

Gareth and I would like to wish you all a very Happy New Year and hope you had a lovely Christmas break.

Local Updates

Lagoon 3 – Just before Christmas the CDC legal team let us know that the owner of Lagoon 3 has withdrawn the appeal against his conviction for failing to comply with the Council's enforcement notice. We will be working closely with officers to understand what the next steps are that we can take as a Council to pursue the removal of the lagoon.

Loxwood Shop – Construction of the retail unit at Nursery Green continues and in November the shop owner submitted a licencing application to CDC.

Planning and Environmental Health – Gareth and I are currently in touch with several residents across the ward who have reported Planning Enforcement or Environmental Health issues to us.

CDC Wide Updates

Local Plan and revised NPPF – A full report on the December 2024 changes to the NPPF is due to be presented to the Development Planning and Infrastructure Panel on 21st January. Officers are hopeful that there will be no impact to the emerging Local Plan, although we await the Inspectors' definitive comments to be certain.

Devolution and Local Government Reorganisation – In December the government published a paper outlining plans for both devolution and the reorganisation of local government. This will introduce Strategic Authorities with an elected mayor across England, so that Government can hand more powers down from Whitehall. Separately The government wants all areas to have unitary councils across with each serving a minimum of 500,000 residents. West Sussex covers a total population of 900,000, so, the government could decide to create one or two unitary authorities within our area. This would mean all of the existing District/Borough and County councils merging into the new unitary council (or councils). Parish Councils would not be affected. It is very early days, but we will keep you informed of any progress.

Surgeries

Cllr. Gareth Evans is available to meet residents face to face via one of his regular surgeries. Gareth will be available at the advertised venues from 12pm-2pm:

Saturday 11th January, Kirdford Stores, Kirdford, 12 to 2pm

Saturday 25th January, Plaistow Stores, Plaistow, 12 to 2pm

Saturday 8th February, Stag Inn, Ebernoe, 12 to 2pm

Saturday 1st of March, Old Mill Café, Wisborough Green, 12 to 2pm

Saturday 15th of March, Northchapel Club, Northchapel, 12 to 2pm

Should the suggested dates not be suitable for you or there are any other reasons preventing you from attending then it is possible to arrange home visits, telephone calls or zoom meetings.

Our contact details are:

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