**D. Cllr Reports August 2023**

**D. Cllr Martin Lury**

I will preface my report by stating that yet again the Parish Council meeting falls on my birthday 😩! Tomorrow we have the August Planning meeting with a number of interesting applications including Reserved Matters for the Nursery Fields’ site off Chalcraft Lane. Suffice to say that matters of access, loss of agricultural land, the very principle of development on this land have been established by its designation under Policy SD 3 of Arun ‘s Local Plan and the granting of Outline Planning Permission on appeal. On page 119 of the report, Bersted Parish Council’s concerns re buffer planting have resulted in amended plans for plots 75 to 84 backing onto numbers 48 to 68 Chalcraft Lane to aid better integration. I am, however, just appraising you of what will be open for discussion and am not indicating how I will vote!

I am obtaining a reputation for calling for site visits and on visiting land adjacent to Little Meadow, Bilsham Road, Yapton feel vindicated on these calls as it does help members to examine the environs. I also have made a private visit to Lagnersh House, Lower Bognor Road, to check access width and siting.

Full Council of the 19th July proceeded in relatively smooth manner, with the exception of The Local Plan review proposal agreed cross- party at The Planning Policy Committee of the 8th June 2023. I did try to explain that The Local Plan this July is five years old and thus out - of -date leaving us even more vulnerable to speculative development! The officer report is crystal clear in its recommendation and without up - to - date evidence challenging housing numbers is more akin to whistling in the wind!

**D. Cllr Gill Yeates**

July

12th – Infrastructure meeting at BPC

14th – chaired Bersted Advisory Group online meeting.  With the planning application now in, we did focus mainly on phasing and the traffic impacts of the potential 190+ houses in the south, the school, the 220+ at Nursery Fields, and the construction traffic for all 3 sites, using Chalcraft Lane.  My hope had been to get the phasing changed to start development only at the northern end and to construct the spine road proper as the works move south.  This would have avoided over-burdening the already busy Chalcraft Lane and using the northern junctions which need to be formed early on anyway.

15th – Bersted Brooks Park consultation and Bersted Park litter pick.  First event was informative and well-attended.  The litter pick became rather more a litter hunt as the grass had been cut, freeing litter, and then the strong winds had whipped it away.  It must be somewhere, but it wasn’t where we were – LOL!

19th – full Council at ADC.  The crucial vote was around the restarting of the Local Plan review.  It is around 4 years ago that I announced the commencement of this review.  Had it continued, then we would likely be at or near examination stage now.  Instead, unfortunately, we now have an officially out of date Plan (it was already failing but is now more than 5 years old).  This matters because it is virtually impossible to refuse/defend refusal of any sites, with potentially all pockets of land vulnerable to developers.

25th – Climate Change working group.  Very pleased to be part of this enthusiastic group and I really hope we can sow some seeds of change.

August

4th – Tombola with Wendy at the play scheme.  Goodness, this was super-busy at times and lovely to talk to our residents, including the very young ones, whilst helping to raise money for this excellent cause.  Wendy deserves a commendation for all her efforts (and expense) in organising these events.

**Parish Councillor Reports**

**Cllr A. Van Koolbergen**

My report is as follows:-

11th July attended Council monthly meeting 15th July Bersted park litterpick 25th July attended climate change working group meeting 25th July attended personnel meeting 28th July helped run tombola stall at playscheme 1st August attended planning committee meeting.

Thanks to all.