

## **Cllr Reports October Council Meeting**

### **D. Cllr Martin Lury**

I was not particularly looking forward to the Technical Services briefing at Arun on the 14 th September, but duty overrides possible tedium and I did glean some useful information which I will duly impart. The team get enquiries regarding business survival and have a shopfront enhancement team with match funding in place as support to local businesses. Employment support is also provided in the form of job fairs etc.

There has been a good take up on shop front grants (50% up to£2000). There is also support for major projects ie a creative vision for Bognor Regis and public realm improvements in Littlehampton. The Visitor and Tourism Sector receives support with The Arun Visitor Strategy, the Sussex - by - The - Sea website and marketing is seen as very important. The UK Shared Prosperity Fund has produced a £1.1 million grant for every authority and 40 projects are being supported including 8 big belly bins in Bognor. We will apply for Arts' Council funding and look at The Brownfield Land Release Fund and WSCC 's Economic Recovery Fund.

In terms of property, there are plans to look at closing levels 7 and 8 of the Multi - Storey car park leased back to The Council from Morrisons. Revenue generation is another area with Prom Café proposals for Bognor, redevelopment of The London Road car park being looked at. Environment Health and Licensing have an Air Quality Strategy and undertake nuisance investigations - noise, light, dust, smoke, odour etc as well as monitoring food hygiene . A revised taxi policy is afoot with vehicle age and condition plus emission Criteria likely to be tightened.

The highlight was Building Control! Safe demolition and resolving non - compliant building works as well as inspecting and consulting on building work. We were also informed regarding the Building Safety Act 2022 - new safety reforms in the wake of The Grenfell Disaster.

I attended also an online Biodiversity Net Gain Seminar on the 20th September which was most interesting indeed! It transpires that there has been a 13% decline in the abundance of wildlife since the 1970s and partly in response the Environment Act Nov 2021 making a minimum 10% biodiversity net gain was set to be mandatory this November, but guess what this change has been delayed into next year which is a crying shame, à mon avis. Biodiversity

monitoring over thirty years will be carried out by the local authority. Incidentally I am pleased to announce that Arun has just employed a biodiversity officer named Jon Best!

### **D. Cllr Gill Yeates**

Thu 14 Sep – Climate change working group

Sat 16 Sep – litter pick

Mon 18 Sep – Tea & Coffee club followed by ADC housing briefing on the HRA (Housing Revenue Account)

Tue 19 Sep – Tour of the Wave, Littlehampton with Freedom Leisure

Wed 20 Sep – Biodiversity Net Gain briefing

Thu 21 Sep – Planning Policy Committee @ ADC

Sat 23 – Tue 26 (inc) first ever trip to Lib-Dem Conference at Bournemouth

Tue 26 – F&GP at BPC (just made it back!)

Wed 27 Sep – ADC housing briefing on the voids process (transfer of tenancies)

Sun 1 Oct – Shripney outreach stand

Tue 3 Oct – BPC Planning Committee

On a personal note, this meeting, my first as Vice Chair of BPC, marks the 11th anniversary of me becoming a Councillor. Have loved feeling more involved in the our community and meeting so many amazing people. Am looking forward to having the time to be even more active in the future and want to thank colleagues for their votes at the last meeting and having faith in me. It is very touching and humbling.

### **October report - Cllr A van Koolbergen**

12/9/23 full council meeting

14/9/23 climate change working group

16/9/23 litterpick

26/9/23 finance & GP meeting

1/10/23 councillor meet & greet at Shripney

3/10/23 planning meeting