**District Reports from Cllr Lury & Yeates**

**Cllr Lury**

Two members’ seminars in quick succession have filled summer evenings this merry month of June beginning with one on a review of the provision of Tourism infrastructure in the district . 16,507 bed spaces , 344 visitor businesses , 6760 caravan spaces and a mere 26 hotels , 820 guest houses , 55 glamping spots and 70 Air B and Bs are in the district . Bognor Regis has 88 establishments and over 11,600 bedspaces ( 40 per cent of which are provided by Butlin’s . Littlehampton has 61 establishments on a smaller scale with 2646 bedspaces and Arundel has 43 with 843 bedspaces . Growing the visitor economy is the aspiration with staycations , cool camping partly reflecting the boom in the millennial market and thus more quirky offers such as eco tourism and bring your dog stays to mirror the increase in dog ownership during the pandemic .
 Apparently 41 per cent of businesses are looking at expansion with the main obstacles being funding, debt , planning and available sites . More diversity in provision is needed with surf pods , watersports , boutique hotels and a better food and drink offer as ideas . Hotel companies are showing interest as well as wellness retreats . A more year - round demand needs to be generated !
 Last night we had a briefing from Steve Turner , the Housing Decarbonisation Project Manager who informed us that 16 per cent of carbon used comes from housing with twenty - five per cent coming from transport . Retrofitting is therefore on the agenda reducing heat loss through walls , the roof and flooring . All social housing has to reach EPC C by 2028 ideally . There is a 25 year programme to decarbonise , but Arun’s housing stock is relatively old amd thus retrofit will be quite expensive ! 300 properties in Arun will be allocated at a cost of £6 million which will be match funded with government . Cost is circa£20 000 per property .
The Planning Policy meeting has been covered in local newspapers , but I will elaborate if required !

**Cllr Yeates**

Really sorry but I have given my apologies for tonight.  Martin has covered very well the two recent seminars at Arun.  We have had a fair number this year and all have been very interesting and informative.  Tonight’s one is being given by the Environment Agency and I will be logging on for that.

We’re also just finishing a meeting cycle.  Last week was Planning Policy with the vote to re-start the background research on the Local Plan.  This is required because the L/P will be 5 years old, and considered out of date anyway, by the time this work is completed, never mind the consultations and examination.  The Arun district will have even less protection from inappropriate development as confirmed by senior officers.

The following night was Housing and Wellbeing with a review of the Community Safety Partnership work.  We also considered the ongoing work program for the Committee.  I have been quite concerned that all the work programs are not being populated by obvious items and wanted to raise a few points.  The key one for me is that we should be reviewing the implementation of the new housing IT system which was expected to go live later this year.  However, I was given a rather fuller response than I was expecting in that it could be years before this is in place.  Having been involved as a Designated Person in a housing case this year, I am well aware how desperately this is needed so it was a bit of a shock.  Cllr Gregory also asked about the sheltered housing review as no report is on the schedule to come before us.  It seems this is delayed due to the amount of work involved, the complexity, rising prices of building materials, etc.  So, the Committee will need to push hard for these issues to be resolved.  I also asked for the KPIs (key performance indicators) to be routinely reported.  I can’t understand why officers haven’t done this as they have always been collected.

The Joint Action Group (JAG) at ADC is restarting on Thursday and I volunteered to go to represent Bersted.  If anyone has any particular issues or questions for the Neighbourhood Policing Team, do please let me have them tomorrow if possible. I’m not sure how often this group will meet, but perhaps our lovely Clerks could keep a note of any points which Cllrs have raised for me, or whoever else goes, to take forward?

One thing I meant to add is that, at the Net Zero presentation for ADC housing, officers are giving emphasis initially to saving heat loss by physical means, which is insulation in lofts and under floating floors, in cavity walls if appropriate.  What is probably preferred is external cladding to homes and this needs to be done at the same time as replacing windows and doors, for more efficient types, as they need to be moved to outer skin of the building.

ADC are consulting with other authorities to compare plans and share experiences.  They are not currently looking at the technical side such as replacing heating systems as the tech is still advancing.  This seems a sensible way forward.  Residents will benefit from reductions in the cost that their energy would be without any measures, and hopefully get the most efficient/effective means of heating/cooling their homes when this is established.

I’ll be at the Hotham Park event this Saturday as planned and will probably see some of you there.