

Boxgrove PC meeting 06/07/2026

CDC Members report,

June was a very quiet month for CDC, a couple of meetings cancelled, one the Development Plan and Infrastructure Panel, an important Panel to steer future development in the District, but the enforcement by Government to begin work on a new Local Plan clearly rendered the meeting unnecessary. Another meeting involving a visit to the Anaerobic Digester over at a WSCC depot near Horsham was cancelled due to the intense high temperatures experienced last week. This AD plant is where all our food waste ends up to rot down, create combustible methane gas which in turn fuels a generator to produce yet more electricity. You may have read that CDC have suspended the use of Hydrogenated Fuel Oil which the current fleet of diesel vehicles are powered by due to the inflated price as a result of the strife in the Middle East. When the decision was made to switch to HFO the ADDITIONAL cost was £85,000 per annum! Clearly this increase in oil prices burst the budget. I've been assured that if prices fall to normal, HVO will continue to be used.

The Overview and Scrutiny Committee met last week, Tuesday 30th and received their Annual Report of various duties of the Council. The Deputy Leader reported on his responsibilities and objectives and answered questions particularly relating to the Councils Climate Change Policy. These were supported by Mr Tom Day, our senior Environment Officer, who outlined future forecasts for the environment. The committee also received reports from the bodies which receive grant funding, the Festival Theatre, Pallant House Gallery and Everyone Active, Chichester at the Leisure Centres. Included within the report was an update from Andrew Parker describing the performance and provisions of the Special Educational Needs and Disabilities assessments, the cost to the WSCC Budget is quite alarming!. Areas to be included in the O&S work programme for '26-'27 monitoring the Climate Action Plan, the annual report from the Business Improvement District (BID) the Annual Budget Scrutiny, Planning Enforcement and the Chichester Regeneration Strategy.

On the subject of Planning, the Planning Committee Agenda for Wednesday 1st July, included just one application and this for the repair

and refurbishment of the decayed sea defences at West Beach, Selsey. These works are essential for the protection of the shore line and numerous properties beyond. These works are financed, this was secured at the June Cabinet Meeting, but it does require planning permission and Approval by the Marine Management Board, a government quango. Hopes are that this work will be completed before bad weather arrives in October/ November. It is alarming that there are so few applications for housing in the District of late, this is the fifth meeting in succession, with just two applications, one for a gypsy and traveller site, the other for a housing extension.

If this continues it could have a dramatic effect on the Council's 5 YHLS. But as I've mentioned before, if housing is not selling, new homes will not be built. This may be exacerbated by the recent announcement by Steve Reed, the Minister for Housing that housing must not be permitted UNTIL the Water Infrastructure is in place to accommodate more housing. He refers to Supply as well as Treatment of our water.

Following her election to WSCC Tracy Bangert has stepped away from being a Cabinet Member and is replaced by Cllr. Rhys Chant who is the CDC Member for Chichester East, his portfolio is for Communities and Wellbeing. He was elected to the Council at the 2023 Elections.

I have just read today that Andy Burnham, the incumbent Labour Prime Minister will increase the speed of transition to Mayoral and Unitary Authorities under the LGR Act if he steams into Number 10 in July. This is not good news as speed is not the essence, it is care in making all the right new and necessary changes demanded by the Act that is needed.

This is one area which should not be rushed, mistakes will be made!

I want to mention the Award of an MBE to the Chair of CDC. Clare Appel, not just for her outstanding work as a Councillor, but for her charitable work in the Community and the inauguration of the 'Chichester Marks Holocaust Remembrance Day' in 2015 something Clare is passionate about because of the horrors witnessed by her ancestors during the Second World War.

Clare is a truly honourable lady.

Henry Potter,

CDC Member for the Goodwood Ward.