

District Report for the Parish Council

Parish Council meeting 05.09.2022

The key issue we have been working on over the summer has been the school site in Wickhurst Green. You will be aware that WSCC announced that they would not be taking on the school site from Countryside as planned following an announcement by the DfE that the school is no longer required. We consider that decision by the DfE to be short-sighted, given the amount of development that is coming down the road – but we have no option but to accept that decision. Regardless, it would still have been possible for WSCC to take on the land and to have held it until such as time that the school was needed or, potentially, to look at an alternative use for it. We set up a petition to campaign for this, spoke on the radio and wrote to the local press. We also appealed to cabinet members at both HDC and WSCC for their support. Unfortunately, this was to no avail. We haven't given up hope and are looking at some alternative options to try and retain this land for the community, which we will update you on this in due course.

You will have seen the updates on the works to the C622. It looks as though we are now just waiting on the ANPR, which has been held up by supply issues, but hopefully within the next month or so that will be in place.

There has been no further information, to date, on the 2 planning applications for the farm site – we've chased officers on this and are awaiting their response.

The first full council meeting since June will be taking place this Wednesday. The key agenda item that may impact BBH residents, if approved, is the increase in parking charges. It includes increases on certain tickets for the town carparks and Southwater Country Park. There are also a number of motions coming to council including two on the cost of living crisis. We will update on the outcome of these next time.