

## Cllr Reports Sept Council Meeting

### D. Councillors

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

Arun's financial situation is precarious, to say the least, as in an overall budget of 25 million pounds, the Council needs to make two and a half million pounds worth of savings and all Group Heads have been invited to present possible savings and some plans and ideas should be presented to Members before Christmas. One issue that could further exacerbate the financial shortfall is whether the government decides to withdraw The New Homes' Bonus. Costs are rising, the staff costs are the highest and the only silver lining is the lack of debt. On the plus side an experienced Head of Housing has been appointed and next Monday evening there will be a HRA briefing for all Members.

The Planning Committee on the 6th September saw me deputising as Vice Chair and included a developer request to avoid providing the affordable housing element as it would currently be unviable, 32 homes by Roffey Homes, a small local firm on a site in Angmering. Arun had commissioned an independent report which validated the firm's claim and we therefore had evidence to comply with the request. This is a possible trend that we need to carefully monitor henceforth!

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

My report for the month:

Aug:

15 – First Aid training (very good – has demystified some of it and changed the way I think about helping)

16 – Our Councillor stand at Bersted Green Hub. Not many visitors to the stand but had a long chat with lady from NHS who is recruiting local people to join the public panel at local surgeries. Passed on our Clerk's details and we handed out some of her application forms.

18 – attended playscheme to help with raffles. Such a shame about the weather which caused low attendance, but a nice morning regardless.

19 –litter-pick at Bersted Green. I did the areas around BG Court and the Durlston Drive shops particularly.

23 – a Town Council meeting for Bognor in Bloom. I only mention this because I had requested that a few participants are actually in our Parish area (around Greenwood Ave/Close) be allowed to enter again this year. It won't be possible in future so perhaps we should look to resurrect our Bersted in Bloom event?

27 – BR Illuminated Parade in aid of the seafront lights. This is the first run of a new event, hopefully annual around the August Bank Holiday. I did join with a friend and we just walked with lanterns. Others did make a fantastic effort with amazing costumes & props. Maybe BPC could enter next year?

Sept:

5 – BPC Planning

7 – Makerspace taster day. The team at Makerspace met me at The Hub event. They have funding from WSCC to help anyone without GCSE Maths through creative arts (cooking, sewing, woodworking). They are located in Longford Road. I asked about contact with other councils and give our Clerk's details. Could possibly come to speak/demonstrate at the tea & coffee club for example. Although not within the Bersted area, Bersted residents would be very welcome. They need more sewing machines so I suggested a grant application as well.

General:

Had online meeting with ADC officers regarding ongoing local resident I have been helping for several years to update.

Received thanks, which was very kind, from another local resident for helping to arrange clearance of obstructed footpath.

At Bognor Regis Town full Council meeting, the Police District Commander attended and announced his imminent retirement. The new head of the Neighbourhood Policing Team was also there. During public questions, there was discussion about the scrambler/trail-bike style of electric bikes. These are illegal and have no registration plates which makes them difficult to track. On my way home that evening, I made a brief visit to check on another issue and saw a group of bikes, 2 of which I believed to be these illegal ones on the road. Tried ringing 101 but ended up requesting a call-back. Continued with my original plan, and saw some more suspicious behaviour. Police Control Centre at Lewes called me around 11.30pm and then next morning. Am liaising with Officers at Arun DC on the second issue.

### **Parish Councillors**

#### **Cllr Alan Smith Report August/September**

08 August 2023    Joined Bersted Parish Council  
15 August 2023    Emergency First Aid Course  
18 August 2023    Sharepoint Access Installation/Instruction  
23 August 2003    Councillor Training  
25 August 2003    Bersted Play Scheme  
12 September 2023 Full Council Meeting

#### **Cllr Alyson Van Koolbergen**

8/8 attended full council  
11/8 helped at playscheme  
11/8 budget prep with clerk and Cllr Greenway  
5/9 attended planning committee meeting