

Councillor Reports – December Council Meeting 2024

District Council Report – Cllr Martin Lury

As we approach the end of the year, I will just, in the interest of brevity, concentrate on a few events and meetings this past month. I attended the remembrance service at Bognor Town Hall and one at The Littlehampton memorial on the eleventh. The turnout, particularly at Bognor, was most heartening and bodes well for the future. On the 18th November I took part in the Sussex Wildlife Trust's Kelp Recovery Update. Their Wild Sussex restoration plan up to 2030 is aiming to protect thirty per cent of land and sea as Arun Valley is an important area. Kelp ecosystems are a nursery ground for marine organisms and also dampen the impact of storms. In the film Sussex Underwater Bognor reef is shown with footage of stingrays! In fact Bognor reef is the largest extant area of kelp left and spores from there will help re - wild Sussex. Black sea bream are back and lobster numbers are on the increase as are mussel beds.

On the 21 November I attended the opening of the ice rink at London Road Car Park where the operator told me that the location was better than by The Regis Centre where the wind levels had proved challenging. I also attended a Trade and Industry Department visit to one of our Littlehampton businesses, namely GB Electronics.

Devolution is still hot on the agenda with the likelihood that Sussex might be divided up into three Unitaries, but there are no concrete proposals as yet. Rumour has it that next Spring further expressions of interest will be sought.

I also attended the Flood Forum at Arun on the 25th November and it is good to see the agencies finally in regular and close contact. On the 3rd December I attended The Arun Growth Board and the meeting went well with good levels of agreement. Finally I attended a meeting with The Local Government Boundary Commission to review the number of Arun Councillors needed and any equalisation of numbers in district seats and will leave Planning Policy to Cllr Yeates and take this opportunity to wish you all a very happy Christmas.

District Cllr Gill Yeates

District:

Thur 21st Nov – Housing and Wellbeing. A busy agenda but the highlight for me was the passing of the revised Pet Policy which I have been campaigning for a couple of years at the request of several of our Bersted residents.

Mon 25th Nov – Flood Forum. The last of the original planned 4 meetings but, at the request of members, it has been confirmed that these will continue next year. It is vital that we continue to press for help and support for Bersted, as we are particularly affected and that work done so far is tested. The focus is very much on a joined-up approach between authorities and agencies.

Thur 28th Nov – Planning Policy. More excellent working between all members and officers to produce an excellent response to the S Water Management Plan consultation. This indirectly affects us – Littlehampton and surrounding areas are supplied with fresh water by S Water, whereas Bognor Regis and Bersted come within the Portsmouth Water area. However, water is sometimes a scarce resource and we will respond similarly to P Water at the appropriate time.

Wed 4th Dec – new initiative meeting 'Ask SLT (Senior Leadership Team)' which will be ongoing.

Thur 5th Dec – Finance briefing re budget.

Upcoming – Planning re West of Bersted application (29th Jan 2025).

Parish:

Tue 26th Nov – Finance & General Purposes (budget preparation) and Personnel meetings.

Tue 3rd Dec – Planning meeting.

Fri 6th Dec – FACT meeting regarding flooding.

Sat 7th Dec - helped with our tombola stand at Holy Cross Church. Lovely fun event but not so well attended as last year due to the dreadful weather.

Other:

Sat 17th Nov – Helped to plant my first ‘official’ tree – a Christmas fir – at the wonderful Aldingbourne Country Centre in their fabulous new Cherry Tree play area (a must-visit for anyone with young children).

Fri 29th Nov – Another ‘first’, switch on of the fabulous lights at 2 Mornington Crescent, Felpham, for the amazing Pam. It’s in aid of St Wilfred’s Hospice so do take the opportunity to go and see them and enter the prize draw for the best guesses as to how many lights are in the display (Pam informed that it is more than 9000). Honourable mention to Cllr Woodall in his role as Santa who handed out sweets to the children.

Thur 5th Dec – Attended Citizens Advice AGM.

May I wish you all a very Merry Christmas and all the very best for 2025!

Cllr Alyson Van Koolbergen

My report for December: -

26.11 chaired finance & general purposes meeting

3.12 attended planning committee meeting

7.12 helped set up and run BPC tombola stall at the Holy Cross Christmas Fair

10.12 attended full council

& throughout month admin for Babsham Residents WhatsApp group / help & support where needed.