

## **NOTES ON THE FOCUS CLUSTER GROUP MEETING** **MONDAY 26<sup>th</sup> APRIL 2021**

I attended the monthly Focus Cluster Group Meeting (on Zoom) on Monday 26<sup>th</sup> April 2021. Representatives from Chiddingly, Hellingly, Heathfield, and Horam Parish Councils also attended.

### **Reports from Parish Councils:**

- Chiddingly:
  - Only a handful of small applications
  - Inappropriate change of use of a facility in a narrow lane to manufacturing was causing concern.
- Hellingly:
  - Concern that approval for two small developments of 8 houses each in Station Rd and Park Rd were not in keeping with the area.
  - A developer was shortly to give a presentation on a project for 100 houses in Park Rd which would generate opposition.
  - General concern that Wealden were allowing small developments which, individually would not justify highways or other infrastructure improvements, but which, collectively should.
- Heathfield:
  - Application for 44 units in Cross in Hand near the junction with the 267, together with a further 12 houses and 12 business units.
  - Application for 94 houses in Ghyll Rd.
  - An area Marklye Woods sold for c£15k with leisure plots being marketed for £8k each. Wealden showing no interest as no application for builds submitted yet. All Parishes were advised to be aware of projects like this.
- Horam:
  - Wealden have issued an unusual major enforcement “Stop” notice on a premises involved in dumping waste and scrap metal.
  - More developments planned along the Chiddingly Rd.
  - Wealden have bought land adjacent to the new Crematorium with a view to selling it to developers. It was noted that Wealden's commercial department were looking at money making schemes through property development, especially in the “Hailsham Spires” scheme.
  - Spending £35k on drainage of a play park and £25k on footpaths from CIL funds!
- Warbleton:
  - I updated the meeting on the sequence of the Black Duck application and approval which they all seemed to be aware of and uncomfortable with.
  - I mentioned the response received from Wealden on the breach of planning controls at Stream Cottage which the meeting believed to be unwise.

### **Report from The Parish Panel (Heathfield Rep)**

- Wealden is attempting to get the algorithm changed which dictates the number of new builds per year, to reduce the requirement.
- Wealden hope to include all the comments in the draft Plan by the summer.
- The importance of the Cluster Group work was emphasised.

- Applications “in principle” are now emerging. These, apparently, just give a basic outline of the application but can develop into more major projects and should be noted.

**Questions for the next Meeting with Wealden (so far):**

- Enforcement
- An explanation of how Wealden decides on spending their 85% of CIL funds.

**Next Meeting**

Friday 21<sup>st</sup> May 2021

Councillor Michael Smythe OBE

26<sup>th</sup> April 2021