

Maria Caulfield's
Update for Ringmer Parish Council October 2022

Sorry I am unable to join you at your meeting tonight. I just wanted to update you on a number of issues since your last meeting.

1) Cost of Living Support

The Chancellor has announced The Growth Plan – setting out support for families with their energy bills and unleashing a new era of growth through tax reductions and investment incentives.

Families will have their energy bills cut by up to £1,400 through the Energy Price Guarantee, whilst businesses eligible for The Energy Bill Relief Scheme will have their energy bills slashed by cutting the price of wholesale gas.

The Chancellor also confirmed personal tax cuts – cutting National Insurance contributions by 1.25 per cent, putting an extra £330 a year in people's pockets and helping them with cost-of-living pressures.

This means 4 million people across South East will save £400 a year thanks to the cut to National Insurance contributions, and 5 million across South East will save £190 a year thanks to the slash to Income tax in 2023.

Alongside these measures the Conservative Government announced further tax cuts – including cutting stamp duty permanently by doubling the nil-rate band to £250,000 (from £125,000), increasing the nil-rate band for first time buyers to £425,000 (from £300,000) and increasing the value of the property which first-time buyers can claim relief to £625,000 from (£500,000).

These measures combined mean a typical family moving into a semi-detached property will save £2,500 on stamp duty and £1,150 on energy bills – and if they have a combined income of £50,000 around an additional £560 on tax. This is around £4,200 in total.

These measures will unleash growth through tax cuts and reform, tackle the immediate energy crisis, removing barriers for business, and building the infrastructure needed to grow the British economy.

2) Planning Inspectors overturning councils decisions on greenfield sites

I recently spoke in the House of Commons asking for a debate on the issue of planning inspectors overturning democratic decisions made by local planning authorities. It is disappointing that across the constituency there have been greenfield developments refused by the local planning authority which is then having its decision overturned by the planning inspectorate. This can be viewed here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Kxssx96D3so>