

Update for Ringmer Parish Council
April 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) Planning

I have recently objected to planning applications LW/22/0104 Land South of Lewes Road and Laughton Road, Chamberlaines Lane, Ringmer and LW20/0011 Averys, Uckfield Road Ringmer with Lewes District Council. Both of the proposed developments are in contravention to policies set out by the Ringmer Neighbourhood Plan and would have a detrimental impact on local infrastructure and the rural landscape. I have also written to the Rt Hon Michael Gove MP who is Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities and asked him to call in these applications for determinations by himself.

2) Parris Lawn Time Capsule

At the beginning of April, I was delighted to join staff and residents at Parris Lawn care home in the village to help bury a time capsule in the garden. The time capsule contains memory cards written by residents of the care home, as well as letters from the local school, football club, cricket club, and letters from local residents of Ringmer detailing their experiences of growing up in the village. The time capsule is due to be opened in 2050.

3) Covid-19 Boosters

Covid-19 Spring Boosters are now available for those at most risk including:

- Those aged 75 and over
- Residents in care homes for older adults
- All those over the age of 12 who have a weakened immune system

If you are eligible the NHS will contact you directly to book.

4) Community Safety Funding for East Sussex

This funding from the Sussex Police and Crime Commissioner, Katy Bourne, totals £445,762.88 in East Sussex including £34,829.03 in Lewes District. Wider projects include £118,131 for the Youth Offending Service and £114,948 for the Drug Intervention Programme. There is also £1,707,368 for Co-commissioning and Victims Services with funding for things such as specialist services for victims of rape, domestic abuse, fraud, and hate crime. I am sure that this funding will go a long way to keep our communities safe and provide specialist support to those who do fall victim to crime.

5) New Family Hub in East Sussex

I have welcomed the news that East Sussex will receive one of 75 new Family Hubs under plans to Level Up access to childcare, mental health services, housing advice, and employment across England. Family Hubs offer localised early help and intervention, from early years support to counselling or parenting classes, all of which can make a transformative difference in the lives of parents and carers who may not have a support network. This will ensure that vulnerable families and young people leaving care can access key support services in one place.

6) Funding for Museums and Galleries

I am encouraging museums and galleries across the constituency to bid for the £4 million in new funding to the Museums and Galleries Improvement Fund. This cash boost will support the improvement of displays, protect collections, and make museums and galleries more accessible to visitors – helping to level up people’s opportunities to participate in and enjoy our culture across the country. Applications for the new round will be open from 9 May to 1 August 2022, with funding decisions expected in autumn 2022. Information on the fund including eligibility criteria and how to apply can be found here: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/dcmswolfson-museums-and-galleries-improvement-fund-2022-24>