

Update for Ringmer Parish Council August 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 Reform

I recently met with the Minister regarding the forthcoming changes in Planning that will be part of the Levelling Up and Regeneration Bill. I heard some very positive things and the Minister signalled quite a few of the changes that we have all been pushing for. I will write to you separately when I have more information on this that I can share. I'm hopeful that the changes will make a positive difference and increase our chances of seeing off unwanted developments.

2) Cost of Living Support

8 million of the lowest-income households will now begin to receive the first instalment of the cost of living support payment, the first payment £326 should have now been received with a further £324 being transferred in the autumn. This is on top of the £400 energy grant that households will be receiving later in the year. The National Insurance Threshold has now been raised level with the Personal Allowance which will save the average taxpayer £330 per year.

3) Defibrillators in all state schools

Defibrillators are to be supplied to all state in schools in England by next summer. This follows on from the Defibrillator bill that I introduced to parliament in 2018. This will hopefully reduce the figure of 12 young people a week who are currently dying from cardiac arrest.

4) Women's Health Strategy

In my position as Minister of State at the Department for Health and Social Care I was pleased to launch the first ever Women's Health Strategy for England. It sets out an ambitious plan to tackle the gender health gap in the healthcare system by making sure women's voices are heard and they get the care they need. This includes our plans to eradicate cervical cancer, reduce diagnosis times for endometriosis, improve access to IVF and support for menopausal women. You can read the plan here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/womens-health-strategy-for-england>

5) HGV's

I am supporting residents in their campaign to stop the excessive HGV traffic that goes through the village. Some HGV traffic is of course expected but many appear to be using Ringmer as a rat run, saving time over using more suitable routes. I understand that on one day there were 600 HGV's driving through the village. A demonstration will be taking place on the green on the 13th September at 13:00.