

## Update for Ringmer Parish Council

### June 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) Platinum Jubilee Funding for Village Halls**

I am encouraging village halls in the Lewes constituency to apply for part of a £3 million fund to mark Her Majesty The Queen's Platinum Jubilee. I have been to hundreds of community events at the many village halls across my Lewes constituency and I know just how vital they are to the communities that they serve. Whether it is modern toilets, new Wi-Fi, or an extension this fund could really help make a difference to village halls.

#### **2) Additional Support with Cost of Living**

I welcome the extra £15 billion of additional support announced by the Chancellor, on top of the previously announced £22 billion worth of support, which will be a huge help to people across my Lewes constituency. Measures include:

- £650 cost of living payment to over 8 million households (with payments coming in July and the autumn automatically from DWP or HMRC)
- Pensioners will receive an extra £300 on top of the winter fuel payment
- Disabled people will receive £150 (many will also be receiving the £650)
- Benefits will be uprated next year by September's CPI
- Triple lock will be protected
- The Household Support Fund will receive an extra £500 million from September allowing Councils to provide additional support
- The previously announced £200 support for energy bills will be doubled to £400 and the need to pay back removed

#### **3) Levelling up funding available for Museums**

I am encouraging museums, galleries, libraries, and cultural venues across the Lewes constituency to bid for £16.9 million in new funding from the Museum Estate and Development Fund to level up access to culture in our communities. Museums can enter Round 2 from 9 May 2022 and bid for grants of between £50,000 and £5 million. 31 museums across England were supported by the fund in its first round.

#### **4) New measures to Improve Roads**

Motorists will benefit from smoother journeys, better-connected communities, and reduced congestion as the government introduces new measures to penalise companies responsible for leaving potholes on the country's roads after carrying out street works. It is expected the new law change could prevent thousands of potholes from being left behind by utility companies nationwide and will ensure more roads are resurfaced to a high standard.