

Borough Report 2019/20

Since our rather surreal unopposed election to be your Ward Councillors for the next four years, we have tried to represent our seven parishes to the best of our ability. Taking on board local concerns and doing anything we can to help achieve the best outcomes.

This year seems to have been completely taken over by the Local Plan and the roll-out of the new Waste Collection service.

The continued delay and necessity to go out for a second consultation on the Local Plan has proved frustrating for all, and made for some difficult decisions in our day to day planning regime. We are now hopeful that the appointment of a new inspector and the setting of dates for a preliminary hearing (currently 19th May), mean that soon progress will be made. However, we are mindful that many things will be once again put on hold due to the consequences of the Corona Virus.

On the planning application side we have had a few successes, including the decision not to place the quarry in Ryarsh. Other applications, though opposed, have been granted approval, highlighting the difficult situation the Council is in without a 5-year supply. We will continue to be vigilant in highlighting potentially contentious applications and ask for your assistance in ensuring we make any required call in request within the strict time limit.

The roll-out of the waste contract, unfortunately, did not go as planned. This was a great disappointment to us all, we appreciate that some residents have not received the service they are due, but hope that at last things are settling down and the new service is beginning to prove a success. Certainly the huge increase seen in recycling proves that residents are engaging well and we thank you all for that.

Although finances have been tight and some large savings have continued to be necessary, we have been able to maintain our frontline services and have ended the year on a positive note. The Council has increased its supply of temporary accommodation, reducing the need to place those with an emergency housing need in less suitable bed and breakfast accommodation. The latest figures also show a drop in the number of homeless people on the street which is no doubt due to the continuing good work of the Council's housing team.

However, we must not be complacent as more and more savings must continue to be made and the uncertainties of the next few months will no doubt be a huge drain on all our resources.

We look forward to working with you all for the next twelve months and hope that you and your families stay safe during this difficult time. We continue to handle any queries as normal so please do get in touch if we can be of any assistance.