

Local Updates

Hyde Housing – Councillors were recently invited to an introductory day and tour with Hyde Housing. It was an interesting day for our Councillors, who are passionate about improving the standards of our affordable housing and holding Hyde and others to account for resolving tenants' issues.

Hyde leadership committed to improving the way they communicate and will be improving the reporting process for complaints soon. Gareth will update further on this.

Local Plan – Prior to the local elections in May, Michael Gove announced that there would be reforms to the National Planning Policy Framework, which would have allowed us to review the draft Chichester Local Plan and potentially reduce the need for us to have a 5 year supply of housing land to 4 years. Unfortunately, despite these changes being promised for Spring 2023, they are yet to materialise. Gareth and Charles remain unhappy with the housing numbers allocated to Loxwood Ward and continue to speak out about this. Housing is one of the issues we continue to work tirelessly on, amongst many others. The Leader of the Council has also written over the summer to Michael Gove and our local MPs asking for an update on the changes. At the time of writing, no response has been received.

Tree Planting Scheme – Chichester District Councillors have voted to continue our popular 'Tree Chichester District' programme to increase tree cover in rural and urban areas over the next two years, with a particular focus on improving habitat connectivity across the district. As part of this targeted planting scheme, a publicly accessible interactive map is being developed to highlight priority areas of the district where tree-planting interventions could help increase habitat connectivity and improve environmental resilience. If you're interested in progressing a tree planting project — whether it's a community initiative or private land — you are encouraged to contact the Council's dedicated Tree Project Officer who can offer advice, by emailing treescheme@chichester.gov.uk or calling 01243 521161

CDC Wide Updates

Full Council Meeting – On Tuesday 26th July Councillors voted for a number of motions including the 'Tree Chichester District' scheme mentioned above and writing to Ministers and rail companies to oppose the closure of our local railway ticket offices.

Planning Committee – At the meeting of Full Council on Tuesday 26th September Charles was elected to the position of Planning Committee Chairman, taking over with immediate effect from Cllr. Stephen Johnson.

Chichester Park Hotel – West Sussex County Council and Chichester District Council have recently been advised by the Home Office that a hotel in the Chichester area is being considered for use as contingency accommodation for people seeking asylum. Decisions around use of hotels and placements for those seeking asylum are made by the Home Office. We are not involved in the decision-

making process. Should members of the public wish to contact the Home Office directly they can be contacted on public.enquiries@homeoffice.gov.uk or by calling 0207 035 4848

Next Full Council Meeting – Tuesday 28th November

Meeting your District Councillors:

Gareth has the following surgery dates scheduled from 12pm-2pm:
Saturday 7th October 2023 – Stag Inn, Balls Cross
Further dates to follow shortly

Should the dates suggested not be suitable for you or there are any other reasons preventing you from seeing us we are also happy to do home visits, telephone calls or zoom calls.

Our contact details:

Cllr. Gareth Evans, email: gbevans@chichester.gov.uk or telephone 07958 918056

Cllr. Charles Todhunter, email ctodhunter@chichester.gov.uk or telephone 07500 577 777