

Wealden News

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wealdenconservatives.com

from the



Conservatives

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CHAIRMAN'S VIEWPOINT

Dear Members and Supporters,

I have received many emails recently setting out the senders' views about the Government and about Brexit. I have replied to all of them but the content of those emails got me thinking about why I am a Conservative.

I joined the Conservative Party not long after the February 1974 election. I became a member of an endangered species, a Young Conservative in Sheffield. Not long afterwards I became Chairman of City of Sheffield Young Conservatives. I met Roy at a public-speaking course at Swinton Conservative College, and the rest is history.

Social mobility

But it was far from obvious that I would be a Conservative. I was born and brought up on a council estate in Sheffield. My father was and is a Socialist. His father had fought in a Sheffield Pals battalion and then as a tunneller in the First World War, and was wounded and invalided out after the battle of Passchendaele. He was treated in St George's Hospital in London, where The Lanesborough hotel is now, and my grandmother was a VAD nurse. They met, fell in love and married. They had still-born twins and then three boys but, in 1936, when my father was only 10, his father had the first of a series of heart attacks caused by his injuries. He couldn't work for a long period and so the family felt real poverty. There was no social security then, just parish relief, and there was very little food.

My father passed his 11-plus, fourteenth in the City of Sheffield, and should have gone to a very good boys' grammar school, coincidentally the one which Roy later went to. They could not afford even the uniform, and so he couldn't go. He went to an intermediate school and left at 14 and became an apprentice vehicle-builder. Later he was a Bevin Boy in the mines and when he came out of the mines, as a result of pneumonia, he joined the Army. His

experiences made him a Socialist.

He and my mother wanted better for me. I, in turn, passed my 11-plus and went to grammar school. The children I had grown up with then thought I was a snob, and I had to prove myself to the ones at the grammar school but that school was the first step to achieving what I have achieved. Through hard work and determination I went to university, got a good degree, became a barrister, and had two children who have also become very successful in their personal and professional own lives.

Roy's family was better off than mine but were it not for grammar school he would not have got to Oxford University and achieved the things he has.

When I was thirteen, grammar schools were abolished. Two years after I left the school there was no sixth form. Bright children from working-class backgrounds in inner-city areas had nowhere to go. They had no example of attainment to look up to. Social mobility took a nosedive.

I am a Conservative because, at its heart, the Conservative Party is the Party of freedom, of allowing people to achieve their potential, and not the Party of the lowest common denominator. It is the Party which encourages personal responsibility. It is not the Party of the Nanny State. It is the Party which provides a safety net but not a comfort blanket. It puts defence of the realm at the top of its priorities. It encourages pride in nation but not nationalism. It looks outside of the national boundaries but it preserves its sovereignty. It seeks to help the weak and disadvantaged by helping them help themselves.

Sometimes it seems that this great Party of ours has lost its way but I am confident that it will always find it again.



Helen Galley
Chairman, WCCA

County round-up

Deputy Leader of East Sussex County Council, Cllr David Elkin, gives us an update on news from County Hall where funding remains a concern.



THE County Council makes a huge difference to the lives of residents. We take the responsibility very seriously and were delighted that, following a rigorous inspection, Ofsted has judged our children's social care services to be outstanding (see item below from Cllr Sylvia Tidy). Only one other county council has achieved this and we do so at low cost.

I am very confident that the County Council is extremely well run and managed but having adequate resources is vital. Cllr Keith Glazier, Leader of the Council, explained in June's Wealden News about our lobbying of Government to stand up for the people of East Sussex. We continue to lobby hard and have recently met Ministers and MPs to ensure they understand the impact the reduced funding is having on people's lives and to press for a fairer funding deal for East Sussex. This work will continue relentlessly.

We are also lobbying hard on the expected Older People's Green Paper: 64% of the budget is spent on social care so the decisions the Government makes nationally are key here. The proportion of people aged over 65 in East Sussex is over 40% higher than the England average (at 18% compared to East Sussex's 26%). This places massive demands on care services locally. It means the impact of national approaches will be felt here first.

Budgets

But lobbying is not enough. With so much already taken out of our budget over the last 10 years and a forecasted £46m more still to save by 2020/21, the County Council needs to continue its robust future planning. You may have seen in the Press that we are identifying a 'Core Offer'. This approach is to agree, in each area of our work, the realistic level of service we must provide, not merely to meet our statutory duties but to meet real local need in the current funding climate for public services. When we are clear about that we will be able to work out how in future to best run the Council, and work with our partners and communities.

There are more, very tough choices to be made. We will do so in a transparent way and will make the very best of all the resources we have for residents.

Email: cldr.david.elkin@eastsussex.gov.uk

Outstanding Children's Service

OFSTED inspectors have praised East Sussex for the experiences and progress of children in its care and care leavers, and the impact of leaders on social work practice. It is one of just six authorities out of 150 nationally to have achieved an overall 'outstanding' from the inspectors. Cllr Sylvia Tidy the East Sussex lead member for children and families says: "I am enormously proud of the front-line staff who work tirelessly, day-in, day-out for this truly wonderful result. Their dedication has now been formally recognised as we have become one of few local authorities to have achieved the highest possible rating for our work with vulnerable families."

Inspectors were impressed with East Sussex's "connected practice" model which places emphasis on the social workers creating "enduring and trusting relationships" with families and children.



Wealden Conservatives

SHIFTING BOUNDARIES



Councillor Roy Galley, takes a look at boundary changes and how they will affect Wealden.

County Council Divisions

New boundaries for East Sussex County Council were agreed in 2016 and implemented for the 2017 elections.

The total number of County Councillors was increased from 49 to 50. The changes were motivated by equality of numbers across all Divisions, as they are called at County level, linked to community identities. In the Wealden Council area there are 15 County Councillors. The average electorate is 8600. In some cases, County Divisions cross Parliamentary Constituency boundaries. All, or part of, 12 of these are in the current Wealden Constituency.

However County Divisions are well aligned with District Council Wards, with three wards to each Division.

COMMENT NOW ON LOCAL PLAN

It's time to comment on Wealden District Council's proposed Local Plan as Cllr Ann Newton, Cabinet Member for planning and development, explains.

IN THIS stage of the Local Plan process, the representations you make will be forwarded to an independent planning inspector. This is known as the Representations Stage. It takes place until Monday 8 October, 2018.

Our Proposed Local Plan seeks to balance protection of our environment with growth for the District through to 2028. Public representations at this stage of the process need to fall into either of two categories:

1. Seeking to make representations on the way in which Wealden District Council has prepared the Local Plan - here it is likely that comments will relate to a matter of legal compliance.

2. Commenting on the actual content of the Plan -- its soundness. This includes whether you think it is justified, effective or consistent with national policy.

We have produced some helpful Guidance Notes for Respondents to help them. They can be found on the Local Plan pages of the Wealden website.

HOUSING NEEDS

The Wealden Local Plan will meet the District's Objectively Assessed Housing Need. This means 14,228 homes in total should be built across the District between 2013 and 2028. Some 7,700 dwellings are already built or have planning permission.

The Plan includes a series of mitigation measures to ensure that the growth and prosperity needed in Wealden does not

District Council Wards

New boundaries for Wealden were agreed in September 2016 and will be implemented for the elections in 2019.

Wealden will be represented by 45 councillors, 10 fewer than now. This is based on how many councillors the Local Boundary Commission thought were needed to do all the necessary tasks, and it will reduce costs.

The Wards will align to County Divisions and there will be a reduction in the number of Wards represented by two councillors. The average number of voters per councillor will be 2,894. A major factor in the changes was again to equalise the number of voters in all Wards.

Parliamentary Constituencies

There has been much consultation on Constituency boundaries. The Boundary Commission recommendations have just been published and it will be up to Parliament to decide.

Boundaries may not change if the House of Commons vote them down. If they do go ahead, it is likely that the Wealden constituency will disappear, with the Crowborough area going into a new constituency with Tunbridge Wells, and a new Uckfield and Lewes constituency being created.

But many a slip 'twixt cup and lip.

www.gov.uk/government/publications/the-boundary-commissions-boundary-review-2018



conflict with environmental responsibilities. Particular concern is given to Ashdown Forest, Lewes Downs and the Pevensy Levels.

The focus of growth is in the south of Wealden but the Plan looks to balance housing and economic growth across the District. This is to reduce the need to commute. The delivery of road improvements, schools and medical provision form part of the Wealden Local Plan. Wealden will be working with key local stakeholders, strategic transport providers and developers. They will aim to ensure the funding and delivery of these improvements is in line with the delivery of housing.

EMPLOYMENT

The Local Plan also identifies land allocations for up to 22,500 net additional sq. metres of employment floor space. There are also other employment space allowances across the District and 4,350 sq. metres net additional retail floor space over the period to 2028.

The Proposed Submission Wealden Local Plan, the Guidance Notes for Respondents, and documents associated with the Plan can be found on our web site, www.wealden.gov.uk/wealdenlocalplan

Hard copies can also be examined at Wealden District Council's Vicarage Lane offices, local libraries and some parish and town council offices.

An independent planning inspector will be appointed to consider the points raised.

PCC Elections



Katy Bourne, the Police and Crime Commissioner for Sussex, is seeking re-selection as the Conservative candidate in the 2020 election. Here Katy outlines her manifesto, with particular emphasis on Wealden ...

HAVING served as Sussex Police & Crime Commissioner since Nov 2012, I have the experience and proven track record to continue making a difference to policing in our county.

I have visibly and consistently held the police to account on behalf of residents, supported victims of crime and, despite challenging financial pressures, have prudently managed the budget to empower the Chief Constable to begin significant investment in front-line policing, primarily focussed on increasing police officer numbers in our neighbourhoods.

SOME ACHIEVEMENTS SO FAR

Opened recruitment for 800 new Police Constables over the next four years so that Sussex will have 200 more officers by 2022 than they currently have. These officers will be working in our communities where residents want to see them - 70 new officers joined Sussex Police this week. We also have 34 new PCSOs starting this month taking us to 215 across Sussex.

By effectively holding the police to account through my monthly webcast performance meetings, neighbourhood officers now spend 41% of their time working in communities compared to just 16% pre-2016. Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary judged Sussex Police to be 'good' or 'outstanding' across each of the core PEEL inspection areas. These reports can be viewed at: <https://goo.gl/5WZFUQ>

Established an award-winning Restorative Justice Partnership which has seen re-offending rates drop to just 18% compared to the national average of 26%. The Partnership won 'Investment Strategy of the Year 2017' for best use of public money from the Chartered Institute of Public Finance & Accountancy (CIPFA)

Protected £26,398.00 to Wealden Community Safety Partnership for fifth year running.

Since March 2014, £40,000 has been given to projects specifically in Wealden from my Safer in Sussex Community Fund.

I have also part-funded the successful Forest Row Community Warden pilot.

As PCC, I have given funding support to victims of crime with more than 45,000 contacted this year - a 20% increase from 2016/17. Nearly 3,000 victims received face-to-face support including 400+ vulnerable victims of fraud and educational workshops have been delivered to 1,700+ children.

MY PLAN TO CONTINUE DELIVERING

If re-selected I will continue to: drive effective neighbourhood policing, especially in our rural areas, by increasing police officers numbers to 200 more than we currently have by 2022. This is the largest intake in more than ten years and officers will be visible in our community. Read more at: <https://goo.gl/8c8yPv>

Support all victims of crime, especially our elderly and young

Increase funding to Wealden Community Safety Partnership to £38,945 to make it fairer and consistent with other areas

Invest in, and further improve the performance and efficiency of, Sussex Police

**Strong Leadership - A Clear Plan.
Thank you for your continued support.**

