



Email us: [office@wealdenconservatives.com](mailto:office@wealdenconservatives.com) Telephone us: 01273 937661

## CHAIRMAN'S CALL TO OUR ELECTED MPs



**M**ANY of you have written to me expressing your disenchantment with the Conservative Party currently, and I have to say that the Parliamentary Party is doing a very good job of tearing itself apart and thus losing the loyalty of its members and supporters at present.

In this article I am going to set out some things which, in my view, our elected members should remember.

The first is that our Constitution is made up of three elements: the legislature, the executive and the judiciary. We can leave the judiciary to one side for now. The legislature is made up of our elected MPs who are elected as our representatives and not our delegates. They are given the role of passing legislation. The executive is the Government which is normally formed by the Party with the largest number of MPs. The Government's role is to govern, to decide on policy and to introduce necessary legislation to put that policy into effect.

The question of Europe has divided views in every Party for many years albeit no Party has been quite so vociferously divided as the Conservatives. Rather than leaving the decision of whether or not we should remain in the EU to Parliament, the Conservative Government decided to pass that question to the people in a referendum, a very rarely-used means of decision making in this country.

The question in the referendum was whether we should leave the EU or remain. This was not a Party Political question and the campaign did not run on Party lines. The voting was not split on Party lines either. Many Labour voters voted leave. Many Tories voted remain. The outcome was a huge vote: the largest in history, and a decision to leave.

### PARLIAMENTARY SPLIT

The Parliamentary split is different from the split in the electorate. More MPs are remainers than leavers but on this topic, having given the decision over to the public and the public having made a decision, the MPs of all Parties are delegates and are bound to implement the decision of the electorate. They cannot, if they wish to retain any credibility in the future, seek to frustrate the decision or to argue that the public made a decision on incorrect facts.

The truth is that those voting on each side of the question did so without full information

or knowledge of what might or might not happen. It would be arrogant for MPs however to argue that the public was stupid or ignorant or voted simply to stop immigration. MPs do not have the monopoly of intelligence or have views which carry, on this topic, more weight than the views of those they represent. Many of them have not even sought to find out what their electors think.

The Labour Party is using this issue somewhat cynically to attack the Government without having any real policy of its own. MPs from all Parties should come together to carry out the wishes of the public.

We cannot have a second referendum. To do so would be to lose the trust of the electorate. There is no guarantee that a second referendum would produce a clear decision, and no indication that it would be accepted if it did. A second referendum could lead to a position where the electorate feel they should have the final say on any major issue and where MPs could abrogate their responsibility as members of the legislature to make decisions which they find difficult. MPs have to forget their own views and follow (on this issue) the will of the majority in the referendum of 2016. Any attempt to do otherwise will be punished severely at the ballot box at the next General Election.

The question remains, however, what the people voted for – what does Brexit mean? In my opinion it does not mean continuing for anything other than for a short transition period to be rule-takers, being bound by EU rules and regulations as if we were members but without any influence over those rules. It does not mean continuing to pay into the EU budget without any say in how the money is spent. It does not mean being prevented from entering into our own trade deals with other countries.

I think that people voted knowing that there would be difficulties for a time but so as to take back control of our country; to make the UK Parliament sovereign again; to make our courts the arbiter of our laws, and to remove ourselves from the thrall of an undemocratic but increasingly centralist EU; to regain our confidence as a great nation again. For me, immigration from Europe was the least of the considerations.

Any deal which delivers on the above would be satisfactory but any deal which does not, or which undermines the Union, would not.

Helen Galley

## Meeting our social care needs



A reflection by Clr Roy Galley.

East Sussex County Council is responsible for adult and children's social care. We spend annually a net amount of £166 million on adult care which does not just cover the elderly but all those with learning disabilities, those with drug problems and some with mental health issues.

In many cases, people receive money which they can spend on services that suit them.

The increasing emphasis is on close-working with the health service because the two services are interlinked. One of the major joint targets is to reduce delayed transfers of care (DTCs). If there is no medical need, the objective is to get people out of expensive hospital settings and into home or residential care. DTC levels have continued to decrease. In April to July 2018 there was a daily average of 43 delayed transfers compared with 93 in the same period of 2017.

### FUNDING

This year we have received £2.6m of extra government money to cope with winter pressures. This is one-off money which will help a lot but it does seem to come every year.

There will be some savings in Adult Care next year. A major change is that the subsidy for meals-on-wheels will end. ESCC have not provided a direct service for some time but has continued to subsidise them. This will cease next year.

Social care for Children amounts to £68m. We have about 600 children who are classed at any one time as 'Looked-after Children'. They used to be called 'children in care' but this term is now

rowned upon. However, I have some issues with 'Looked-after children' because, hopefully, all children are looked after. This

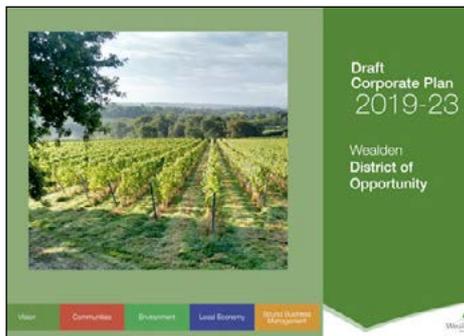


group is cared for by the State. Most of the 600 children are fostered (470 at the end of this year) but it is increasingly difficult to find foster parents.

We have six excellent homes which provide residential care currently for 21 children. Budgets for these children have been largely protected.



# WEALDEN'S PRIORITIES



Wealden District Council is asking residents and local businesses for their views of the Council's priorities for the next four years. The priorities are outlined in the Council's draft Corporate Plan 2019-23.

"We are producing the Corporate Plan now to provide strategic continuity as we transition over to a new Council following the District Council elections on 2 May 2019," said Councillor Bob Standley, Leader of Wealden District Council.

"This builds on this Council's achievements of the past four years by identifying specific aims and ways in which these can be achieved. We are focussing on Communities, the Environment, the Local Economy and Sound Business Management.

"Given the decline in central government funding, the Council has to become more commercially active so it has the resources to continue to provide services and achieve its aspirations."

Included in the many actions identified in the 2019-23 Corporate Plan are:

## The Environment:

Helping deliver infrastructure to support growth including schools, medical facilities, care, roads, transport, affordable homes.

Helping to facilitate cleaner, smarter, more affordable energy for our communities, and extend the electric vehicle charging network.

Supporting transport improvements, including an improved A27, the Lewes-Uckfield rail link and the continuing development of the A22 corridor.

## The Local Economy:

Supporting the expansion of local businesses. Leading on key local regeneration projects. Encouraging start-ups and niche businesses. Working to encourage inward investment in the District from a range of sources.

## Communities:

Meeting local needs in our housing market particularly for first-time buyers and older people seeking to downsize.

Build and maintain more council homes to a high standard. Helping people who are, or are likely to become, homeless.

Supporting initiatives to address changing health needs across the District.

Seeking opportunities to invest in more modern GP surgeries and local health hubs in Wealden. Promoting good access to mobile and broadband networks.

## Sound Business Management:

Keeping council tax as low as possible. Pursuing income generation opportunities. Optimising access to services online 24/7, reducing the costs of delivery and maintaining direct support for people who need it most. Ensuring the efficient and effective service delivery of all Council services.

There are 40 corporate actions outlined in the draft Corporate Plan. You can view the draft 2019-23 Corporate Plan online at: [www.wealden.gov.uk](http://www.wealden.gov.uk) and take part in the consultation. Local organisations are also being asked to give their views. Responses to the public consultation will be considered at the 30 January 2019 Cabinet meeting. The final recommendations for the adoption of the new Corporate Plan will be made at Full Council on 20 February 2019.

# County's 'Core Offer'

**East Sussex County Council Leader, Cllr Keith Glazier, with an update on the funding difficulties facing our county ...**



I HOPE YOU have heard about our budget proposals for next year and our core offer to residents and businesses. We want your views about our assessment of the basic but decent level of service – the least you should reasonably

be able to expect, even in this difficult financial climate. We will use this as part of our lobbying the Government for the funding we need.

With the needs of residents and businesses at its heart, the core offer sets out how we will provide the best service we can within the resources we have available: from support for those who need it most, to services for everyone – like roads. It is an ambitious but realistic plan to help us continue to deliver quality, value-for-money services where they're most needed. Besides meeting our legal duties, we also want to grow the economy of East Sussex and invest resources where greater costs may grow.

## Why do we need a 'core offer'?

Demand for services is growing, while our funding from central Government is declining. We know that council tax increases are difficult. We have already saved £130 million this decade – enough to care for 5,790 vulnerable adults or fix 2.5 million potholes. But we still need to reduce costs by another £46 million over the next three years. Our core offer takes these financial pressures into account and will help us plan and deliver the services which are most important to you. We are keen to get your views so please complete our survey at

<https://consultation.eastsussex.gov.uk/governance-and-community-services/a-core-offer-for-east-sussex>

We are continuing, with the help of our MPs, to lobby the Government hard and to make sure they understand the needs of East Sussex – especially in relation to the Fair Funding Review and Older People's green paper.

# COMMISSIONER IN HAILSHAM

AS PART of her engagement programme of listening to the public, Sussex Police & Crime Commissioner Katy Bourne met young families in Hailsham at a drop-in event (pictured, right).

"The families came from Eastbourne, Polegate, Alfriston and Hailsham and I was reassured to hear them all being very positive about policing and feeling safe where they lived. One Mum told me she had reported some low level crime and she was pleased at how quickly and effectively police dealt with the problem.

"This unprecedented funding news could help us recruit substantial numbers of PCSOs and police officers

"The Home Office has

announced the biggest annual increase in funding for police forces since 2010. The overall package of nearly a billion pounds provides more money in the core grant for local forces to cover national priorities and funds to meet increased pension costs. This includes the extra money that could be raised locally by PCCs with the lifting of the current £12 limit on the police element of council tax.

"This increase in the core grant and funding flexibility announced for PCCs is a result of the intense lobbying I have undertaken with other PCCs and Chief Constables.

"I want people in our county to feel safe and have confidence in their police force and we know that

officer visibility plays an important role in achieving this.

**"This unprecedented funding news could help us recruit substantial numbers of PCSOs and police officers as well as improving the public contact service, especially the 101 non-emergency number.**

"I met our new Deputy Chief Constable Jo Shiner and questioned her about the ongoing work to improve the performance of the 101 non-emergency service.

"The Deputy talked about how the Force is currently investing in more staff and making sure they have the right skills to provide the best service to callers.

"They are also investing in new technology such as 'queue buster



as well as looking at all the latest and most advanced solutions including Artificial Intelligence.

"Public feedback that I have received over recent weeks from my focus groups and extensive engagements shows a clear appetite for more visible policing and a willingness to pay more if people can see where their money is going. The Chief Constable and I are equally committed to ensuring that residents will see and feel the benefit of any extra funding."