



MARCH 2022

WEALDEN CONSERVATIVES NEWS

Dates For Your Diary Exciting Events Announced

What A Line Up !!

Your chance to meet some real movers and shakers in Parliament

April 29th - Association Drinks Event with Sir Graham Brady MP

An MP since 1997 and currently Chairman of the Conservative 1922 Back Bench Committee. The Event will be open to all Association members and include drinks & canapés at Hendall Manor Barns, Herons Ghyll, Uckfield. Ticket prices to follow shortly.



May 9th - Patrons Event with the Right Honourable Jacob Rees Mogg MP

Drinks & canapés at a The Coach House, Framfield Place, Framfield by kind permission of Mr & Mrs R A Marten. This event will be free to Patron members but a limited number of tickets will be available to ordinary members @ £50 per person - contact the Association Office on 01273 937661 for booking.

May 12th - Association Thai Supper with Penny Mordaunt MP

This event is open to all Association members and is a chance to hear and meet this interesting current Minister of State for Trade Policy who has held a variety of previous posts including Secretary of State for International Development and Secretary of State for Defence. To be held at Thai Terre Restaurant, High Street, Uckfield. Free parking is available to the rear in Regency Close car park.



Menu and ticket prices available shortly.

Further Interesting Things Planned

Premier Dinner Returns

18th November - The Right Honourable Elizabeth Truss MP

The current Foreign Secretary and former Lord Chancellor under Teresa May has agreed to attend. Provisionally to be held at the East Sussex National Hotel.

Owing to the Pandemic it has not been possible for Wealden Conservative Association to hold any significant events over the last two years. We are now able to offer a wide variety of notable MPs who want to come and talk to this Association. The Officer Team are working hard to make arrangements over the rest of this Year (with even better things in planning for next year). This is your chance to meet with significant people in the Government and make your views known as well as getting the lowdown on what is actually going on from those who know.

News for the Patrons Club

Chancellor Rushi Sunak has agreed in principal to attend a Patrons Club Dinner in London. Our MP Nus Ghani is working with the Chancellor's Office to secure a date which is hoped to be in early 2023. More details to follow but this is one not to be missed. For details on how to become a Wealden Patron Club member contact the Office by email: office@wealdenconservatives.com or speak to one of the Executive Officers.

Association AGM

The Association AGM - June 2022 - Date & venue to be advised.

Sussex Area Gala Dinner

16th September - Venue to be confirmed.

Introducing the Wealden 200 Club

For a subscription of £25 a year your number will be entered into a regular Prize Draw and have a chance to win cash prizes as well as supporting your local Conservatives.

There are two annual get-togethers where the Prize Draws are made.

These are generally a Summer Event and a Christmas Party which are offered to members at cost (and with no other fund raising at these events). Each year there are two £250 prizes, twelve £50 prizes and ten £25 prizes.

Membership is separate from Conservative Party membership.

You Can Have As Many Numbers as You Like

Wealden District Council News

Council Tax is having to go up but the rise has been held to 2.53%. This means that, for the lowest Band A there is an increase of £6.34p per week., for Band D an increase of 9.61p per week and for Band H an increase of 19.23p per week. Like everyone the Council is under pressure from inflation and other cost increases.

Thus the cost of the Refuse Collection Service is expected to rise by 5% from 1st April which will cost an extra £300,000 per year. The Service performed well during the Pandemic despite fuel problems, driver sickness etc. The missed bin rate across the Partnership which includes Hastings, Rother and Wealden, was running at 30 missed bins per 100,000 population which is pretty impressive in the light of the circumstances. The Recycling rate in Wealden is still the highest in East Sussex.

Would You Like To Be A Councillor Do You Want To Make A Difference

Could you champion your neighbourhood?

Are you interested in the future of where you live?

Do you want to help shape your local area?

Do you want to stand up for your local community?

Do you have skills which could help local people?

Current District Councillor Roy Galley said:

'Becoming a Councillor can be really rewarding improving life for residents and helping to solve a myriad of local issue'.

To find out about becoming a Conservative Town or District Councillor.

To learn what's involved in being a Local Councillor

Contact Roy Galley Email: roy.galley@wealdenconservatives.com or call 01825 713018

Local Plan / Housing

Wealden Council's view is still that the Standard Methodology gives housing numbers which are far too high. Conservative Councillors have been making strong representations to Government with MP Nus Ghani's help. There have been meetings with Michael Gove and Rishi Sunak in the last couple of months. The meeting with Michael Gove centred on the Local Plan and the need for more flexibility in housing numbers. The conversation with the Chancellor covered a range of topics which included planning.

Hailsham South District Council Election

Sadly the Conservatives lost this seat to the Liberal Democrats on Thursday February 10th. Of on an electorate of 2,871 only 660 people voted which was a turnout of 22.98%. This was disappointing as we had a very good candidate in Christopher Bryant but he polled only 254 votes with the Liberal Democrats polling 394 and the Social Democrats 12.

We need strong, good local candidates to fight these elections. With the next District elections in May 2023 it is important that Wealden Conservatives do not lose their majority on Wealden District Council. It is worth remembering that the Liberal Democrats have already voted to call for 380,000 homes to be built every year in the U.K. including more affordable and social housing. When they attack Wealden Council's current planning policy just bear that in mind. And if you are thinking about the Green's just take a look at what has happened in Brighton & Hove.

The Wealden Conservatives Officer Team are keen to produce these Newsletters on a more regular basis and are happy to include details of Branch events for promotion to the wider membership. News items and other items of interest will also be welcome.

We want to hear from you.

Please send to: newsletter@wealdenconservatives.com.

Editor Chris Lawson