



JUNE 2022

WEALDEN CONSERVATIVES NEWS

Introduction

This is the final Newsletter under the current Officer Team and as you will see below the AGM is on 17th June so do come along. How do you think the Team have done? It is your chance to elect the new Officer Team going forward and if you want to nominate anyone download it from the website or contact Trevor in the Office who can send you a form. Nominations have to be in by 9th June.

There is going to be a Question & Answer Panel after the AGM which will comprise Keith Glazier (Leader of East Sussex County Council & Conservative Group), Katy Bourne (Sussex Police Commissioner) and Ann Newton (New Leader of Wealden District Council & Conservative Group). So come along armed with lots of questions about local and national issues.

Save the date ...

**Wealden
Conservatives**

The Association AGM
will be held on Friday 17th June 2022
at Uckfield Civic Centre, 7.30pm.
An agenda pack will be sent to members

www.wealdenconservatives.com



Wealden District Council

Following the announcement that Councillor Bob Standley, having served as Leader for 12 years, was to stand down an election amongst Conservative Councillors took place. Deputy Leader Councillor Ann Newton was elected as the new Leader. This was ratified at a full Council Meeting on 18th May.

Councillor Newton is the Ward member for Framfield & Cross-in-Hand since 2007 and in addition to being the Portfolio Holder for Planning & Development has been Deputy Leader since 2017. After taking her post as Leader, Councillor Newton reshuffled the Cabinet posts and there were a number of changes and new appointments. Pam Doodles (Herstmonceaux & Pevensey) joins the Cabinet with responsibility for Climate Change, Public Health & Community Leadership. Richard Hallett (Crowborough St Johns) takes responsibility for Governance, Customer Services & HR and Neil Waller (Crowborough Southwest) has responsibility for Finance & Benefits.

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Councillor Ray Cade (Herstmonceux & Pevensey) changes from Housing & Benefits to Housing & Waste and Councillor Philip Lunn (Crowborough Southeast) becomes the Cabinet member for Commercial & Economic Development & Leisure. Councillor Lunn also becomes Deputy Leader.

As part of the reshuffle Councillor Roy Galley, previously the Portfolio holder for Climate Change , Economic Development, steps down from the Cabinet.

More Local News

Wealden Conservative Deputy Chairman Roy Galley reports

Ukraine

The refugee welcome is a fast-moving situation and regular updates are available on the Council website. So far 1,236 Ukrainian refugees have been matched with hosts in East Sussex. In Wealden there are 546 expected with 215 having arrived.



Officers and councillors are involved in overseeing child safeguarding measures and in allocation of school places, whilst firefighters are carrying out home-safety checks.

Bin Strike



A pay offer by Biffa was rejected by the GMB Union on Thursday 26th May following a ballot. An improved offer had been made by Biffa which is understood would mean a pay increase of up to 17% this year and a minimum of 7% next year plus a £600 performance related bonus. Biffa have said the deal would deliver pay parity with refuse workers in Hastings and Rother which are part of the same joint Council waste contract. The GMB Union said Biffa's offer includes a rehash of old money and is about £1.50 - £2 short of what they were asking for and said 98% of its members rejected the latest offer.

The dispute is between Biffa and its workforce, and not with the council but there may come a point where the council may have to engage other contractors if the matter is not resolved quickly. Wealden Council are updating their website daily with information about which services are operating. The advice remains to put your general bin out on the day you are due a collection and to leave it out for 3 working days if not collected initially. Recycling and garden waste are not being collected.

Another Date For Your Diary

18th November - Premier Dinner Returns - 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.

Wealden Conservatives Join East Surrey Conservatives

Three members of Wealden Constituency Association joined East Surrey Conservatives at their first big event following the lockdowns. Your Editor Chris Lawson and Petrina Voelcker, both currently Officers of the Wealden Association, together with Chris's wife attended this Spring Dinner held at the Surrey National Golf Club in Chaldon where the guest speaker was the Rt. Hon. Lord Frost CMG. It was the first major speaking event of this type by Lord Frost and was also the first event for Clare Coutinho as the new MP for East Surrey.

Lord Frost covered a lot of ground in his speech from his time as a diplomat in the Civil Service. He touched on the negotiations over Brexit and had some amusing tales to tell of what went on behind the scenes. At one point he went 3 days without sleep as the negotiations were so intense. He was pleased to have been part of the team that delivered the Referendum result as well as negotiating one of the largest free trade deals.



Rt. Hon. Lord Frost



Rt. Hon. Lord Frost with Chris Lawson

He went round talking to the diners during the meal and took questions staying right to the end of the Dinner. There was an Auction and a Raffle raising a welcome sum for the East Surrey Association.

The Wealden contingent agreed it was a most interesting evening and Lord Frost was a fascinating speaker putting forward what are tended to be considered traditional conservative views.



Clare Coutinho MP with Petrina Voelcker

