

# Wealden Conservatives' Lobbying Success



For many months, Conservative-led Wealden District Council have been lobbying central Government that the centrally-imposed housing targets on the district were too high.

Both the current Leader, Ann Newton, and previous Leader Bob Standley, have met with successive Secretaries of State to put their case, and the recent announcement from Michael Gove has vindicated that lobbying on behalf of residents.



Cllr Michael Lunn talks housing numbers with Michael Gove

It was welcome news that:

- Centrally-produced housing numbers will no longer be mandatory
- With over 60% of Wealden being protected land, including the AONB, we can reduce the housing numbers required
- Brownfield sites will be a priority
- Planning Inspectors will no longer be able to override sensible local decisions
- More homes in the North and Midlands to ease pressure on the South-East
- Local Neighbourhood Plans are to be strengthened
- Developers to pay higher fees so council planning departments not subsidised by Council Tax payers

“The proposals are welcomed and set to protect our very special environment here in Wealden”, said Conservative councillor Bob Standley.

# Tackling Climate Change

Wealden Conservatives are committed to net carbon zero by 2050 at the latest.

An action plan is in place and being implemented to achieve this.

Electric vehicle charging points are being installed in many of our off-street car parks in Wealden.

Proposals that the waste vehicles are being converted to run on hydrogenated vegetable oil. This investment will drastically reduce the amount of



diesel being used by the council.

Wealden were ahead of the game with council offices achieving BREEAM excellence back in 2011.

“We have a sound climate action plan in place and through prudent management of the council’s finances, the resources necessary to deliver change at the scale required, as a council and to help enable our communities to follow our lead”, says Wealden council leader, Ann Newton.

“We are focused on the things we can do locally to conserve the environment while ensuring Wealden remains a good place to live and work”, she added.

## WEALDEN'S SOUND FINANCES

Conservative-run Wealden District Council and East Sussex County Council have both kept Council Tax increases as low as possible whilst providing high-quality services to our residents.

“It is imperative that we continue to limit any Council Tax increase to the lowest possible, and promise that to residents”, says Cllr Neil Waller, Wealden District’s finance portfolio holder.

## Conservative-run Wealden INVESTING IN INFRASTRUCTURE

- New employment park
- Upgraded swimming pool in Crowborough
- Community sports park
- Increased spending on road maintenance
- Improving major road network
- Increased funding on cycling tracks and recreational space.

## Wealden – county's best recycling rate!



Thanks to your efforts, Wealden has consistently had the highest recycling rates of any area in East Sussex.

Items which cannot be recycled go to the East Sussex County Council *Power-from-Waste* facility at Newhaven. They are used as fuel to generate electricity – enough to power 20,000 homes.

## SE WATER'S MISTAKES

Michael Lunn has called on South East Water to recognise communities such as Rotherfield and Hadlow Down and learn from their mistakes: 2018 (Hadlow Down completely cut off); 2020 (Rotherfield Parish neglected); and 2022 where both were ignored. "It's clear that a lack of knowledge and investment in infrastructure has contributed to the problems", says Michael who pledges to hold them to account.



**Speeding matters**  
SPEEDING remains one of the biggest concerns for Michael Lunn. He has actively campaigned with the local PCSOs to raise awareness and commends the parish councils on Speed Indicator Devices which are proving invaluable in educating drivers and gathering speed data.

Michael is campaigning to have a consistent and expanded speed limit on the Western approach on the A272 heading into Hadlow Down where there are 3 pedestrians crossings. Michael Lunn also commends the local community for contributing nearly £3500 towards new Speed Indicator pole on the Western side of the village of Hadlow Down.

## Your local voice

### MICHAEL LUNN

is a true Wealden local, born and bred. Having lived and worked in High Weald area all his life, going to school in Five Ashes and living and farming in the ward for the last 15 years, he is well known by many.



He has been a Conservative district councillor for the last 12 years and is pleased to have been selected for his local area of Hadlow Down and Rotherfield.

Michael currently runs a pedigree Sussex beef farm in Hadlow Down, and is specifically interested in conservation and environmental issues. He won the Sussex CPRE Countryside award in 2007 for restoration of a historical landscape.

He is a strong believer in protection of the High Weald Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.

## High Weald AONB must be protected



Michael Lunn fully supports local residents who are battling two fronts of housing

developments within the village of Rotherfield; namely Court Farm and Millwood.

Despite the developers' proposals, there continues to be very good policy reasons for

refusals on both applications.

Indeed, Michael has already raised concerns regarding these proposals and will support residents, the Rotherfield Protection Group and Rotherfield Parish Council in their ongoing campaign against unsustainable and inappropriate developments.

Michael is well placed to represent a strong voice for residents due to his national and local knowledge on planning matters.

### NEW VILLAGE HALL

Michael Lunn (pictured) has long been an advocate for the new Hadlow Down village hall. With progress hampered by Covid, he's now had discussions with both the new Community Centre and the old village hall representatives to set down a clear time-line for progress to be made.



## YOUR LOCAL CONSERVATIVE TEAM



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### Cllr Michael Lunn

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