

## Report to Parishes from your District Councillors

June 2023

### Lavant ward report to Parish councils

June 2023

**District councillor: Joseph Brookes-Harmer**

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Firstly, I must say a big thank you to all who elected me on May 5<sup>th</sup>. I am looking forward to working with you over the next four years. Please see compiled below the latest news from both village and council matters for June 2023.

#### Village matters:

#### Planning Applications on "Pause"

This is an update to our parishes on the current situation with new housing development and the issue of mitigating the impact on the A27 Strategic Road Network (SRN) and associated Local Highway Network (LHN). In summary Council paused certain planning applications in the south of the District whilst legal advice was sought to establish the weight of Policy in the emerging Local Plan. This is particularly relevant to emerging policy T1, ([Chichester Local Plan 2021-2039 Proposed Submission.pdf](#)) which seeks to redress the impact of further housing on the SRN and LHN,

Legal Counsel opinion was sought as to whether the Council would be justified in seeking a higher level of contribution than that set out in the Council's current Supplementary Planning Document.

Counsel has now advised the Council that **the impact of not collecting contributions in line with the emerging policy T1** would be so severe in term of the Council's ability to plan for further housing (and therefore regain control over speculative housing proposals) that the Council can legitimately seek to defend a position that, in the absence of such increased contributions, development proposals would undermine both the Council's ability to deliver future housing provision in the district (including within a planned manner) and would arguably be premature and prejudicial to the emerging Proposed Submission Local Plan.

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The Council is obligated to determine planning applications as rapidly as possible and **will therefore now proceed to continue to determine applications that for the past few months have been held up solely on this issue.**

In essence this means that all “paused” applications along the A259 will now come forward to Committee or for Officer decisions.

Council matters:

This is a summary report provided to Parish Councils following the results of the local Elections on Thursday May 4<sup>th</sup> and the Annual Council meeting on Wed 17<sup>th</sup> May.

### Election Results:

Party	Councillors
Liberal Democrats	25
Conservatives	5
Local Alliance	4
Greens	2
<b>Total</b>	<b>36</b>

[Your councillors - Chichester District Council \(modern.gov.co.uk\)](http://modern.gov.co.uk)

Chichester District Council now has a Liberal Democrats administration. The Local Alliance and Greens have formed a “Group” and are now the official Opposition.

### Annual Council Meeting

The annual council meeting elects and appoints the new Council administration.

### *The Chair and Vice Chair of Council*

Represent the Council at a range of community and civic functions

### Highlights:

The new Council met on May 17<sup>th</sup>. Clare Apel (Chichester West) was elected Chair. Adrian Moss (Harbour Villages) was elected as Leader. The first cabinet meeting will be held on June 6<sup>th</sup> 2pm. The public are welcome to the meeting and can ask questions providing the questions is submitted by noon two working days prior to the meeting.

A separate briefing document will be provided with other appointment details following Cabinet

Role	Name	Ward
Chair	Clare Apel	Chichester West
Vice Chair	John Cross	Fittleworth

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### ***Leader and Cabinet***

Responsible for overall Council Policy

Cabinet Role	Name	Ward
Leader & Regeneration	Adrian Moss	Harbour Villages
Deputy Leader and Environmental Strategy	Jonathan Brown	Chichester North
Finance, Corporate Services and Chichester Contract Services	Mark Chilton	The Witterings
Communities and Wellbeing	Tracie Bangert	Southbourne
Housing and Revenues and Benefits	David Betts	North Mundham and Tangmere
Planning	Bill Brisbane	Chichester East
Culture and Events	Jess Brown-Fuller	Midhurst
Growth and Place	Harsha Desai	Petworth

[Contact details - Cabinet - Chichester District Council \(modern.gov.co.uk\)](#)

### **Committee Details**

[Committee structure - Chichester District Council \(modern.gov.co.uk\)](#)

### **Midhurst Fire**

Following the fire that devastated the Angel Hotel and neighbouring buildings in Midhurst the road remains closed.

Although the owners of the buildings are responsible for the shoring up of the buildings, South Downs National Park Authority; West Sussex County Council and Chichester District Council have stepped in to use public funds to make sure that this work is done so that the road can be reopened without any further delay. This decision was made when it was clear that the owner's insurers were unwilling to act quickly. The need to re-open the road, support the businesses and the local community was a priority for the three authorities. Work on the site has already started to make sure that the fire-damaged listed buildings are safely and legally secured. The work is expected to take seven weeks to complete from 15 May. Additional road repairs are due on completion.

[\*CDC continues to support Midhurst businesses with grants and addition event support.\*](#)

The Leader of the Council has visited Midhurst on a number of occasions and will be visiting on a regular basis.

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### Local Plan

Council Officers are reviewing all the responses received for the Reg 19 Consultation. More responses than anticipated were received and therefore the review is taking longer to finalise. An initial report will be brought to the Development Plan & Infrastructure Panel (DPIP) on June 7<sup>th</sup>.

### **GROWTH**

#### **Culture**

Novium Museum

Museum visitors in April 2023: 4,978

**The Magic of Middle-earth Exhibition** - [www.thenovium.org/magicofmiddleearth](http://www.thenovium.org/magicofmiddleearth)

Since opening on 1 April, The Magic of Middle-earth exhibition is proving to be popular with visitors, having sold over 3,000 admission tickets from opening to date (mid-May).

**Chichester Roman Week** - [www.thenovium.org/romanweek](http://www.thenovium.org/romanweek)

Chichester Roman Week 2023 (Tuesday, 30 May – Saturday, 2 June). Led by The Novium Museum, the programme brings the fascinating world of the Romans to life.

### Growth

#### **St James Industrial Estate**

The redeveloped site has been handed over to the council and practical completion secured. Take up of the new site is promising with the initial tenants now starting to move in.

#### **Business Contact Programme figures**

For March and April 2023, the Business Contact Programme has provided support to 358 businesses across the district, helping to protect 135 local jobs, seeing 40 new jobs created, and assisting with funding for 29 district businesses.

A new set of Enabling Grants will commence shortly - [www.chichester.gov.uk/enablinggrantscheme](http://www.chichester.gov.uk/enablinggrantscheme)

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### Invest Chichester

Economic Development Officers are developing a “green edge” to promote the advantages and support businesses can access from being based in this District. [investchichester.co.uk](https://investchichester.co.uk)

A green week is planned on the Invest Chichester LinkedIn account to coincide with the national initiative “Great Big Green Week” from June 10- 18<sup>th</sup>  
[www.linkedin.com/company/invest-chichester/](https://www.linkedin.com/company/invest-chichester/)

### HOUSING & COMMUNITIES

#### Damp and Mould Update

The Housing Standards Team continues to provide advice to residents on how best to manage moisture in the home. Tenants experiencing damp and mould within their property should always notify their landlord in the first instance. If the problem worsens, or the landlord’s response is unsatisfactory tenants should contact the Housing Standards Team for help and advice. The following leaflet is also useful - [www.chichester.gov.uk/hhsrs](https://www.chichester.gov.uk/hhsrs)

#### Contact points:

Clarion Housing: [LCDMResidentLiaisonOfficers@clarionhg.com](mailto:LCDMResidentLiaisonOfficers@clarionhg.com)

Hyde Housing: [Dealing with damp and mould](#)

#### Supporting You team update

The Supporting You Team continue to make a real difference to residents.

<https://www.chichester.gov.uk/supportingyoucampaign>

As part of the project the Council has also launched a new budgeting calculator

<https://www.chichester.gov.uk/> Over the coming year, the team will be looking to develop support opportunities further, particularly by engaging with the charitable and voluntary sector. If parishes have any groups that you feel would benefit from hosting a supporting or advice session or would be open to working with the team further, please get in touch via your Councillor.

#### Business Rates Revaluation

New Business Rate bills have been issued and to assist businesses the Government have created a dedicated web page which can be accessed via....

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/business-rates-revaluation-2022>

#### Wellbeing

As part of the new Anti- Social Behaviour (ASB) Action Plan the government is encouraging local authorities to change the name of the Community Trigger to the ASB case review, and the guidance can be found in the link below.

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/anti-social-behaviour-asb-case-review-also-known-as-the->

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community-trigger

CDC has a duty to publicise the ASB case review process and how many requests we have received, and this can be found on our website on the link below.

<https://www.chichester.gov.uk/communitysafety>

If you have any residents who come to you who are being subjected to ongoing ASB please email your District Councillor who will contact the Communities team.

### Current consultations

Dogs in Public Spaces – closing date 7 June 2023 -

<https://wh1.snapsurveys.com/s.asp?k=168200642897>

All current surveys can be found here: [www.chichester.gov.uk/letstalksurveys](http://www.chichester.gov.uk/letstalksurveys)