

WDC PARISH PLANNING PANEL

This is a quarterly meeting chaired by the Head of Planning and Building Control, Kelvin Williams and his senior officers with representatives of the towns and parishes within Wealden District. At the last meeting the following of interest to Polegate arose.

1. The WDC is trying to simplify planning procedures by reducing the amount of reports required with most applications, principally those of a small domestic nature.
2. Car parking standards are being revised. These will vary according to the type of housing proposed, i.e. research has shown that there is less demand for spaces where affordable housing is being built. Allocated parking will probably be reduced. Parking standards for developments for commercial and industrial usage are also being reconsidered.
3. There are changes to agricultural permitted development and the time scale for determination will now be 28 days after which consent will happen by default.
4. WDC is not happy with the current proposals for relaxing domestic permitted development. Critical also of planning decisions to be delegated to Towns and Parishes with an officers report for guidance. Mr Williams thought this somewhat far-fetched.
6. After the Core Strategy plans' approvals the existing South East Plan is being scrapped.
7. Of local interest to Polegate, Britanniasuperfine (known locally as the chocolate factory) had their planning application for extensions turned down by WDC planning committee against officer recommendation. (Polegate Town Council Planning Committee had voted for it). They have won their appeal to the Planning Inspectorate. The inspector laid much weight on the addition employment to be created and overruled objections from neighbours that their properties would be detrimentally affected.

Cllr Michael Clewett