

POLEGATE TOWN COUNCIL

District Councillor's Report to Full Council Meeting 24th January 2013

From Don Broadbent

Further to my report on 26th November 2012 the District Council, as expected, formally adopted the Core Strategy at its Full Council Meeting on the 28th November 2012.

At the last full council on the 9th January 2013 the only topic on the weighty agenda dealt with the Localisation of Council Tax Support.

From 1st April 2013 there will no longer be a National Council Tax Benefits system. Following the last Comprehensive Spending Review the Government is assuming that through this change there will be a 10% reduction in expenditure and it will be up to Local Authorities to manage that reduction.

Within Wealden we have 9476 claimants of Council Tax Benefits at an estimated cost of approximately £10 million. Pensioners make up 54% of the current case load and the Government has stated that there should be no reduction in Council Tax support for older people.

At the next Full Council Meeting on 20th February 2013 WDC will set its Council Tax.

The other matter of importance coming to fruition is the Joint Waste Contract. That is the sharing of a privatised refuse collection between Wealden, Eastbourne, Hastings and Rother. The public will be given all the information in due course but no change to collections is expected initially.

Wealden District Councillor reporting for Polegate Town Council

GREENLEAF GARDENS - PLANNING APPLICATION

Residents in Greenleaf Gardens were delighted at the news, received on Christmas Eve, that the planning application for the development at the end of Greenleaf Gardens has been refused. It was a huge relief and we must hope the developer is not going to appeal the decision.

I would like to thank everyone who has written to me about their views on the application and to share their appreciation after the decision.

Cllr Oi Lin Shing
20th January 2013