

District Councillor Report for West Dean Parish Council 29.05.2024

As ever the councillors representing Bream and Pillowell have been involved in many and varied activities throughout the month.

Having spent many interesting hours over the last few months contributing thoughts and ideas to the Local Plan councillor working group we are now pleased to report that the document has been approved by cabinet and will be presented to full council on 30th May. If the Plan is agreed by the council it will then be taken around the district for public consultation. The aim of the Plan is to guide change in planning matters that achieves sustainable development that meets present needs while not compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. Climate change and biodiversity loss are overarching themes which have fundamental influence on content.

Council officers and portfolio holders have been working together and with relevant outside bodies to develop projects and activities that will play a part in the fulfilment of the aims of the Council Plan. With three main priorities of Thriving Communities, Decarbonisation and Nature Recovery and Sustainable economy, the Plan will last for the life of this council and will be reviewed and if necessary updated as felt necessary. Details will be available on the council website in the next few weeks.

We are regularly approached by residents with concerns about their local area. Planning applications are very frequently raised either by applicants or, more likely by objectors. There have recently been two applications that have engendered significant local distress and residents have, as you know, attended the West Dean planning committee meeting to voice their concerns. We as district councillors very much value the considered comments made by the West Dean committee which often underlines views that we may wish to present.

Beth attended the Overview and Scrutiny committee meeting about the Planning Department. During the day she learned about how planning officers make their decisions and was interested to learn more about the enforcement of planning conditions and the criteria applied to decisions in this area.

We continue to hold monthly drop-in sessions for local people to come and raise concerns with us. Our next is on Saturday 1st June 11 – 1 at Yorkley Community Centre.

Jackie Dale Pillowell ward
Beth Llewellyn Bream ward
Alison Bruce Bream ward