

ITEM 9 CLERK REPORT JUNE 2025

I have been informed today that the co-option process can begin for the vacant councillor position. Possible candidates can be considered at the July Full Council meeting.

All council items have been PAT tested on the 10.6.2025.

Please send your updated bio's to the Administration Assistant for the website as soon as possible.

I attended a Clerks Day in May which was attended by all the Clerks in Wealden. It was a useful meeting. I can report the following:

- The police intend to flood one area at a time as there is evidence that crime is then reduced in that particular area for a sustained period
- There are new penalties for weapon carrying
- Drug testing can be carried out on arrest
- There is one rural crime team in Heathfield which consists of 6 constables and 3 PCSO's. There is one drone per team. The team endeavours to see victims of crime face-to-face
- Wealden is particularly hard hit at the moment with wildlife crimes, theft, environmental crime, fly tipping, poaching and coursing
- The importance of having a list of phone numbers of public with expertise eg. Doctors, nurses, police officers for a parish Emergency Plan was stressed
- In 2026 there will be National Development Management Policies which will need to be considered alongside any Local Plans. The effect on Neighbourhood Plans is not yet known
- The Government wants to speed up the process surrounding new or updated Local Plans
- The housing targets are overwhelming and could confuse the Devolution process
- The Government is trying to decrease the involvement of councillors in the planning process. The National Policies will be there to expediate planning decisions
- The mandatory training for councillors on planning committees will not be carried out by planning officers
- There is some talk that developers will have to pay into a national fund
- Parish Councils were advised to stay informed, be ready to acknowledge change, consider how to be more agile, find friends where you can and focus on the needs of your community

I will be attending the Wealden Clerks Meeting on Tuesday 24th June 2025 from 11am to 1pm at the Hellingly PC, Hellingly Community Hub. The guest speaker will be Mr Trevor Scott, Chief Executive at Wealden District Council. Trevor Leggo will be speaking about the Local Government Reorganisation (LGR) and devolution.

A new tab has been added to the website under the tab "Your Council" which now lists council representatives for working groups.

The website has also been updated with the information resolved at the Annual Meeting in May.

WDC have taken delivery of the noticeboard but are waiting until the Hub works have been completed before they decide on the best spot for it. Once it's been installed, I will be receiving a key.

WDC have also stated they we will soon be launching an augmented reality trail for children in Horam. The route details are still to be finalised, but they would like to be able to provide info about the trail within the noticeboard. There is enough space for 12 A4 sheets of paper.

Europlants have replanted the high street planters. The large hebes which have been removed will be planted in the memorial garden.