

District Councillor Report – Sellindge 9 January 2024

Sellindge Developments – awaiting suggested date for meeting from Planning and Policy Teams at Folkestone & Hythe District Council.

Budget - Work has continued on the 24/25 budget for which will be voted on by the full Council on 18th February 2024. Whilst the District Council was left in a good financial situation when the new administration took over in May, inflationary pressures have put all Councils under financial pressure which will require increases to Council tax and fees broadly in line with inflation plus some possible cuts to non statutory services. Whilst I accept and support the need for some increases I am personally opposed to proposals to cut back on street cleansing and reduction in waste bins around the District as I feel these will ultimately lead to additional costs in dealing with fly tipping and a general deterioration on the appearance of the District which was one of the top objectives of the previous administration. There is also a proposal to reduce the number of verge cuts during the course of the year. The consultation on the budget proposals closes on 15 January so there is still time to make your comments - [Search – Folkestone & Hythe District Council \(folkestone-hythe.gov.uk\)](https://www.folkestone-hythe.gov.uk)

Otterpool Park PLC – there has be no update on a strategic partner over the Christmas period.

‘Wish Upon A Star’ appeal. I was pleased that my grandchildren purchased and wrapped up presents as part of the appeal. This was first organised by former council housing advice and preventions officer Nicola Baker, who sadly died in 2018, and has been continued as a tribute to her magnificent efforts every year since. Hundreds of vulnerable children and young people in the district received a loving Christmas gift thanks to generous donations from staff, councillors and our community partners.

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