

District Councillor Report – Sellindge 12 December 2023

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Where has 2023 gone? It certainly has been a challenging year for many residents. And perhaps it is good to be reminded that there are a number of 'Cost of Living' Schemes run by the Council to support people who are struggling – see [Help and support with the cost of living – Folkestone & Hythe District Council \(folkestone-hythe.gov.uk\)](https://www.folkestone-hythe.gov.uk/help-and-support-with-the-cost-of-living)

Sellindge Development – as agreed at the last Parish Council I have discussed with the Head of Planning arrangements for a public meeting on Planning Matters to take place in the New Year. The Planning Team have asked for a list of topics that residents would like covered so that they can be prepared for the meeting. I await possible dates for the meeting from the team.

Rural England Prosperity Fund – just a reminder that this fund is now open and expression of interests can be made via the website [Rural England Prosperity Fund - Folkestone Works](https://www.folkestone-hythe.gov.uk/rural-england-prosperity-fund) I have been encouraging Village Halls and Community Centre's in North Downs West to consider applying to this fund for energy efficiency improvements, ie solar panels.

Dungeness Nuclear Industry – I put forward a motion to Full Council on 29 November to support the Nuclear Industry at Dungeness. As well as providing around 1,000 current jobs at the Nuclear sites there's a real prospect of securing more employment and carbon free energy from Small Modular Reactors at Dungeness. The Greens, Labour and LibDems amended the motion to obliterate any reference to Dungeness or Nuclear. See Minutes of the Meeting [Agenda for Council on Wednesday, 29th November, 2023, 7.00 pm | Folkestone & Hythe District Council \(moderngov.co.uk\)](https://www.folkestone-hythe.gov.uk/agenda-for-council-on-wednesday-29th-november-2023-7.00-pm)

Otterpool Park LLP– There has been no further update on seeking a strategic partner to bring in additional finance to the project. However, the leader in answering a question at full Council, said that the original charter and planning terms of reference would be adhered to. He also said that the intention was to keep control of the project! Last week, the appointment of Gary Ridgewell was announced as the new Managing Director to replace Andy Jarrett. I welcome this appointment and wish him every success in taking the project forward. I would like to record thanks to Andy for his commitment and leadership since the inception of the project and wish him well for the future.

I wish you all a Happy Christmas and a Peaceful New Year.