

District Councillor Report – Sellindge 13 February 2024

Sellindge Developments – I am still waiting for Officers at the District Council to firm-up on a date for the promised public meeting for a presentation on Planning Policy and issues within the village.

Otterpool Park LLP – There is still no news on the search for a strategic partner for the project.

Ward Budget – I have allocated all my funding for this year. In Sellindge I have supported Sellindge Scouts with £500, Sellindge Under 16 Football Club £200 and Sellindge Bowls Club £475. The next round starts at the end of May 2024.

Police & Crime Panel – At the Panel last week it was agreed the police precept of the council tax will rise by £13 a year or 5.34% for an average Band D property. That is £1.08 a month or 35p per day. This will maintain the record number of police officers (over 4,000) in the county. As well as supporting the New Neighbourhood Policing Model, which is seeing officers deployed to local communities and schools, the PCC has secured funding from the Home Office to deliver extra visible policing in antisocial behaviour and drug hotspots, to help drive crime down. Councillors agreed to back the PCC in lobbying the government for a fairer funding settlement in the future. However, even with this increase the Police budget still needs to find £7.3 million of savings!

FHDC Budget – The Budget Meeting will take place on 28 February 2024 and the Council part of the precept is proposed to increase by 2.99%, (the maximum allowed). Full budget details can be seen at [Agenda for Cabinet on Wednesday, 31st January, 2024, 5.00 pm | Folkestone & Hythe District Council \(moderngov.co.uk\)](#)

Princes Parade – The Leader of the Council has made a decision (subject to call-in) to take down the current hoarding and replace with 1.2m stock fencing at a cost of £70,000 with a further £20,000 allocated for contingency and £10,000 allocated for maintenance! Otterpool Park LLP will cover the cost of removing the current hoarding and store it on the Otterpool site for future use.