

District Councillors' Report – 10 January 2023

Budget Consultation - The council will consider the proposed £19m spend on services for the new financial year at the full council meeting on 22 February 2023. The services include maintaining parks and gardens, providing social housing, keeping streets clean, emptying bins and dealing with planning applications. Please visit the budget consultation 2023-2024 page for further information - all comments should be received by 4pm Wednesday 1 February 2023.

Use of accommodation in the district to temporarily house those seeking asylum in the UK. The council is organising an online engagement event to answer resident questions around the Home Office's use of local accommodation, health and wellbeing, community safety and what support network is in place for those seeking asylum. Questions can only be submitted ahead of the meeting and need to be submitted before 4pm on Friday 20 January 2023. These can be sent in online via <https://fhdcformassembly.tfaforms.net/f/community-event> or sent by post to Committee Services at the District Council. This event will be streamed live on YouTube and will take place at 3pm on Friday 27 January 2023 - youtube.com/@folkestoneandhythemeetings

Cost of Living – Just a reminder that there are many schemes available to support vulnerable people/families – information can be found on the website, Live chat via website, by telephoning customer services 01303 853000 or the Customer Access Point (CAP) at the Civic Centre which is exclusively to enable those without digital access to self-serve online through computer points with help available if needed. Southern Water is just one of the utilities that run a scheme to help customers struggling to pay their water bill – We would urge you to get in touch on payless@southernwater.co.uk or: 0800 027 0363 (Monday to Friday, 9am to 5pm)

Home essential fund (previously referred to as the UK Prosperity Fund). This is a scheme to support families on low incomes and is over a three year period. Currently, in this financial year, there is funding available for boiler replacement or servicing and particularly relevant to our area oil boilers needing to be replaced or tuned up and checked for efficiency, top-up of oil or gas bottles. Application forms will be on the Council website shortly, however please advise us if you know a family who may benefit from this scheme as we are keen that residents in this ward do not miss out because funding on this particular project is only available until the end of March 2023. Other projects, under this heading will follow in the next financial year – watch this space.