

## **DOWNSWOOD PARISH COUNCIL MEETING ON TUESDAY 11 JUNE 2024**

### **BOROUGH COUNCILLOR REPORT BY CLLR DENIS SPOONER**

#### **CHANGES AT MBC**

At the MBC AGM held on 18 May, Cllr John Perry (Staplehurst Ward) was elected Mayor and Martin Round (Headcorn and Sutton Valence Ward) was elected deputy Mayor for the 2024/25 municipal year.

MBC is now run by a coalition of councillors from different political groups. All MBC Policy Committees have been cancelled for June as the MBC Officers could not service them because they have to give priority to organising the General Election scheduled for 4 July. There is, therefore, no information available to indicate what policies and initiatives will be taken by the new administration at MBC.

For the 2024/25 Municipal year, I have been appointed to the MBC Planning Committee and to the MBC Planning and Healthier Stronger Communities Policy Advisory Committee.

#### **BIN COLLECTIONS**

Personally, I have received very few complaints and questions about bin collections over the past several weeks and I have received none from Downswood. I am, however, aware that there are continuing isolated problems in parts of the Borough. Hopefully, these will all soon be resolved.

#### **MAIDSTONE BOROUGH LOCAL PLAN REVIEW**

There is still no further information available about the progress of the High Court Challenges made by Bredhurst PC and by 'Save Our Heathlands' to the MBC LPR which was formally adopted by MBC on 20 March. In the meantime, the policies and proposals of the LPR remain the prime material consideration in the determination of all planning applications and other related planning matters.

#### **MEETINGS ATTENDED**

**18 May:** I attended the MBC AGM, as detailed above.

**21 May:** I attended a continuous series of what are known as ‘snap committees’ when each MBC committee meets one after another just for a few minutes to elect its chairman and vice chairman for the forthcoming municipal year.

**23 May:** I attended a meeting of the MBC Planning Committee. There were no applications on the agenda that had implications for Downswood residents.

Borough Councillor Denis Spooner

Bearsted and Downswood Ward

7 June 2024

01622 631944 or 07949751365