

Update for Longman Parish Council

May 2023

Please accept my apologies that I am unable to join you at your meeting this week. I do however have the following updates for the parish.

1. **Pothole Contractor**

The Government has recently awarded East Sussex £2,360,000 extra to help fill our many potholes. We have a new contractor for East Sussex County Council now in place and hopefully we will see better quality road repairs. The new contractor is Balfour Beatty and potholes and other repairs can be reported here <https://live.eastsussexhighways.com/>

2. **Rural England Prosperity Fund**

Wealden will benefit from £838,120 in funding from the Conservative Government to support rural businesses and create jobs to grow the rural economy.

3. **Meeting with the Housing Minister**

Last week I met with the Housing Minister, Rachel Mclean, to discuss the Governments plans to end national housing targets, so local areas can decide their own and to end the practice of Planning Inspectors overturning local planning decisions which has in the past impacted residents across the constituency. It is important to protect our green spaces and I will keep the parish informed on any developments in regard to this.

4. **Extra School Funding**

The Government is investing an extra £2 billion into schools this year and next, with every state school in England benefiting and schools in Lewes constituency receiving £1,931,188 in extra funding.

The extra funding will deliver the highest real terms spending per pupil in history by 2024–25. A typical primary school will receive approximately an extra £35,000 and a typical secondary school will receive an extra £200,000.

This is delivering on the Government's commitment to provide a world class education and deliver opportunity for all – wherever they come from and whatever their background – particularly those who face challenges or who need extra support

5. New Sewage Update

Not only has the Government produced the £56 billion Storm Overflows Discharge Reduction Plan, but last week we voted on several new measures to make sure water companies are taking immediate action .

Firstly, we are lifting the cap on civil penalties for water and sewerage companies, raising them up to unlimited penalties so that polluters pay for their impact on the environment, with funds now being reinvested into further improving rivers and water bodies. Secondly, the Government has now put targets in the Storm Overflows Reduction Plan on a statutory footing, making them legally binding so water companies have to comply.

The Government are working hard to not just transform our sewage system but ensuring our water companies are held to account for their performance.

6. Extended Cost of Living Payments

I know many families are struggling to make ends meet in the face of rising prices. That is why I am delighted that the Government has allocated a further £7,793,568 to East Sussex County Council through the Household Support Fund, doubling down on the commitment to help the most vulnerable families with rising costs. This fund is a lifeline for local residents, and this extension will ensure this vital support is available for families who are struggling for another year.