

## **Westhampnett PC Meeting 13/04/2026**

### **Henry Potter, District Councillors Report.**

My apologies for not attending this next meeting.

On April 1st, the Chief Executive of the Council Diane Shepherd addressed all Members via a Teams on line meeting to outline the latest developments of the Local Government Reorganisation relating to the proposed new Unitary Authorities for Sussex. Despite the tremendous amount of work at meetings of the Senior Officers and Leaders of the Local Authorities involved, since before Christmas, Mr. Steve Reed, the Minister for Communities, Housing and Local Government saw fit to propose alternatives which bore no resemblance to what CDC, Arun, Worthing and Adur proposed as the best option for our Districts. This raised objections from those concerned and any decision on this has been deferred at least until after the County Elections on 07/05. He claims this will give more time for further examination and consultations to help his decision making. The chances are that this may even be delayed until June or even July! The later the announcement is made will put extreme pressure on the time table for LGR and the absolute necessary reorganisation within the new Authorities . Ms Shepherd briefly outlined what has to be done within the component Councils to harmonise everything to be equal and fair for all residents. It is to put it bluntly, a minefield! There is so much to be done. There will be NO District Elections next year so Members will continue for one additional year, but if somehow the time table gets back on track, there will be an election of a “Shadow Authority” to manage the transition til 2028 when they hope it will be completed. I have my gravest doubts.

Other news of the Council, it has been agreed that £600,000 taken from Reserves be contributed to WSCC to enable the transformation of the City Centre especially North and East Streets. This will include a complete replacement of the roads and pavements, new seating, greenery and planting to create an attractive, more welcoming environment. New signage will be introduced to help visitors find their way around and learn more about the heritage of the City. Additional funds are to be released to carry out necessary repairs to two boundary walls in Selsey.

The Public Space Protection Order, Dog Control 2026 is being consulted on with a view to extending areas where dogs need to be controlled. This may soon be applied to areas outside the responsibility of CDC, for example, Parish Councils may wish to have the PSPO applied to areas under their control such as playing fields and children’s play areas. Almost certainly there will be additional controls around the foreshores where ground nesting birds are found.

Finally, an additional meeting is being arranged for all Councillors outlining your responsibilities regarding Standards and Code of Conduct. It is recommended and the date will be 20th April on line using the Teams platform. Notify :[democraticservices@chichester.gov.uk](mailto:democraticservices@chichester.gov.uk) if you wish to attend.

Cllr. Henry Potter.

CDC Member for Goodwood Ward