

David G White Independent

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Dear Neighbour

I am a candidate in the election on May 4 to represent the Hellingly Ward on Wealden District Council and I am hoping that I have your support.

I am standing as an Independent. **Independent of any political party** because I believe that you elect local Councillors to represent your views and wishes when it comes to local matters, not the wishes of a political party. As a Councillor all too often I have witnessed party politics overriding the wishes and best interests of local people with Councillors instructed on how to vote. That shouldn't happen and if you vote Independent I promise you it will not happen.

I share the concerns of many of you at the massive developments in Hailsham and Hellingly that have been approved without ensuring the provision of the necessary infrastructure. We are under threat of yet more developments. But what we need is more childcare and school places, better healthcare facilities, improved roads and transport, secure water and electricity supplies for the foreseeable future and sewers that can cope with the additional flows.

As an Independent on the District Councillor for the last seven years I have

- opposed the building of new developments on land that floods
- sought to mitigate the impact of the many major developments in the ward by securing the delivery of the Hellingly Country Park, new cricket pitch and pavilion and the Hellingly Community Hub
- supported the inclusion of more public open space and improved sport and recreation facilities as part of all major new developments
- pressed for improvements to local roads and in particular for speed restrictions on the A267, on Park Road and Grove Hill, and on the A22 and the A271.
- fought for the delivery of the new primary school on the site off Park Road and for the enlargement of Hailsham Community College
- pressed for the delivery of the new Hailsham Health Centre, first promised in 2005.
- held Southern Water to account for the disgraceful and unacceptable failures in the local sewers that have resulted in sewer floods. I, with the Greens and Lib Dems, put the resolution to full Council that resulted in Southern Water now providing planning committees with information on the treatment the sewage from new developments avoiding damaging spills to local rivers and the environment. But the Heads of sewerage companies should be criminally responsible for the spills and banned from working in the water industry.

As a Hellingly Councillor

- I provided help and advice to the Friends of Park Wood, arranging for the Wood to be declared an Asset of Community Value by Wealden Council in September

2017 thereby ensuring continued public access and stopping an immediate sale of the property to private land owners

- in 2021 I delivered the Hellingly Neighbourhood Plan (one of only three in the District) in order to better protect our environment.
- I have secured the land behind the Kings Head as an extension to the Lower Horsebridge Recreation ground

Recent flooding has shown the vulnerability of much of the ward to flood and the folly of building on low lying land. Raising land to protect the new developments is not the answer; it merely causes floods elsewhere, usually on the roads, many of which became impassable.

We are all now more aware of the climate emergency and the need to reduce carbon emissions. New building must therefore be truly sustainable, well located, of good design, and not impose additional demands on already stretched resources.

Under previous administrations Wealden Council has

- failed to protect the District from over development by not delivering a Local Plan, allowing developers and landowners to dictate where and what is built
- brought about gridlock in the town centre by allowing new development without first undertaking road improvements
- failed to deliver the new health centre for Hailsham residents
- wasted monies on Hailsham Aspires by pursuing a town centre redevelopment, including more new housing, on land it neither owned nor controlled
- decided to pursue a series of commercial developments that will, if implemented, require substantial capital borrowings, exposing the Council to financial risk at a time of austerity.

I believe that Wealden can and should do better but that change will only happen if Councillors are elected who will represent the views of those who elect them and not the wishes of political parties.

If re-elected I will continue

- to hold Southern Water to account for failure in the sewers
- to work for improved infrastructure and facilities for residents
- to ensure that all new development is needed, is of good design, in sustainable locations and located away from land that floods
- to oppose Wealden's exposure to excessive debt in connection with speculative development

If you share my concerns and hopes for the area then **be independent and vote Independent**

Yours sincerely

David G White

P S If you are intending to vote at the polling station on 4 May you will need to take with you photographic identification details of which are shown on the poll card that you receive. Postal votes are not affected but if you wish to vote by post you will need to have applied for a postal vote by 5.00 pm on 18 April.