

# KEVIN BENTON

INDEPENDENT COUNCILLOR\*

District Council elections May 4th 2023.  
Independent candidate for Heathfield South.



## The Land Banking Scandal

**There are over 9000 houses given planning permission in Wealden that are not being built.**

This scandal is known as 'land banking', a trick that developers play to control house prices. The logic is simple, hold back from building, prices and profits go up, but the young people of Heathfield suffer.

I believe Wealden District Council's housing supply policies actively support land banks. This has led to the granting of inappropriate developments which are not in the local interest.

**Please help me to stop Land Banking.**

**We must protect our precious AONB**

**Email:** kbentonindependent@gmail.com

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## Misleading Claims on Housing Number Reduction and Infrastructure Improvement

Housing number requirement for Wealden remains high at circa 1240 pa, despite 'Conservative Lobbying Success' claims. Central Government's policy of 'top-down housing' numbers remains unchanged, and must be replaced by true LOCAL needs assessment.

Wealden has had no local plan since 1998. This assists large-scale development applications to gain approval. Opportunity exists to reduce house building numbers, but WDC chooses not to.

**Are you concerned about the level of greenfield development? I am.**

Local infrastructure is in serious decline and Wealden leisure centres are under threat of closure. Roads, doctors, dentists and sewage infrastructure are all unable to accommodate the levels of growth promoted.

**Are you tired of this? I am.**

I have a 3-point plan that addresses the lack of a local plan and infrastructure shortfall, and protects our treasured AONB.

**Please help me help the residents of Heathfield South.**

In May 2021, as a complete novice I stood in Heathfield South and gained over 40% of cast votes. In 2023, with help from you by voting for an independent mind, we can win and together contribute to much-needed change.

**Vote for TRUST and honesty  
on May 4th 2023.**

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## Who is Kevin Benton?

Having grown up in East Sussex and lived in the county all my life, I am now based in Cross in Hand with my wife Jenny and our two dogs.

I enjoy sport and music and have been a competitive cyclist, played rugby for several local teams and stool ball for Five Ashes. I am still a member of Heathfield and Waldron RFC and continue playing guitar in several local bands.

For 35 years I owned and ran a successful engineering company in Sussex providing employment in several locations. **This qualifies me to understand the complex needs of businesses.**

Now retired, I am able to devote time to the community that I treasure. **I will listen to you and support your concerns.** I am well placed to drive the changes needed in Wealden. But I need your support to make this possible.

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## What Does it Mean to be Independent?

- T** **Total** freedom from party political control, allowing me to address your local issues.
- R** **Representing** you without interference from political parties.
- U** **Understanding**, listening to and acting on genuine concerns of residents.
- S** **Standing** with a fresh perspective and real opposition in Wealden for your benefit.
- T** **Trust** me to represent the local issues with local independent policies and not those enforced by Central Government.

## Are You Fed-Up with Sewage Spilling on to Our Roads, Paths and Into Homes?

Heathfield residents say, **"NO MORE SEWAGE FLOODING"** but who is listening to our voice?

**I am.** My home is suffering like many others and I will represent your concerns.

\*I sit on Heathfield and Waldron Parish Council representing you on the Highways and Planning sub-committee. My attendance record is impeccable and I am known for thorough research on every application under consideration.

## I Stand For:

- ➔ Increasing the build of truly affordable housing on brownfield sites.
- ➔ Improving our roads and infrastructure.
- ➔ A reliable and regular bus service connecting Heathfield to other nearby towns.
- ➔ Improving leisure and recreation facilities for all.
- ➔ Protection of our ENVIRONMENT.
- ➔ Restraining large-scale developments and halting building on green fields and the AONB.

**Remember to bring your photo-ID to the  
polling station in order to vote.**

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