

Notes on Parish Partnership Panel February 9th 2023. Election procedure and planning matters

Roger Dalton in the chair

Officers attending: Julie Beilby, Chief Executive

Sharon Shelton. Director of Finance

Allison Parris

Election procedures and timing. Julie Beilby: Presentation written by Dane Ashdown, Head of TMBC Electoral Services.

Voter ID. Electors will have to show an approved photo ID. A free voter authority certificate will be available from the Electoral Registration Office or via an online portal. 16 applications have already been received. Will not accept work/student passes or photocopies of ID documents. See: <https://www.gov.uk/how-to-vote/voting-in-person>

They will accept: a passport or driving licence, valid or expired; immigration document or PASS card or concessionary travel pass. For those who need a VAC, deadline is 5pm, 6 working days ahead of the poll. Valid for 10 years. There will be female and male staff at each polling station in case any lady who chooses to wear a veil has to be verified in a curtained booth.

Postal voting is NOT changing. If you move, you need to re-register from your new address

Accessibility. Returning Officers have a general responsibility to ensure less able people can vote. Voters can be assisted by anyone over 18. Tactile voting devices for visually impaired.

Subscribers on Nomination Papers. Parish councillors only require a proposer and seconder. Local councillors also.

Election timetable will begin on March 13th with the notice of election. All information and forms will be available on the electoral commission website. Nominations will be 14th March to 4th April. Forms must be brought in by hand, after making an appointment so they can be checked

Dave Davis. **Enforcement.** They will have 4 planning enforcement officers. They are short of 8 out of 35 officers in the Planning Department. They have some agency staff.

I asked how the 30% reduction in carbon footprint of new buildings is going to be enforced.

Dave Davis did not immediately have an answer. I pointed out that this is now UK law since June 15th 2022.

He answered another question and then came back with saying that it came under building regulation enforcement rather than planning. However, he said he had been to the East Malling 'Bradbourne' presentation that afternoon, where, he said, the planned development seemed to lack sufficient electric charging points, PV panels or provision for heat pumps and there was "Fertile ground" for us to keep a close eye on what was going on.

Local plan. He said the government planning management system kept changing, likening it to what happens when you shake a kaleidoscope.

22,000 people replied to the regulation 18 consultation which compared with 500 for Maidstone.

Option 1 was strongly chosen. This is the one that focussed development on sites outside the green belt and AONBs. There were 1600 valid objections to sites.

He said the plan does not presently include GP surgeries or roads which it should.

James Bailey is head of planning.

Next PPP is likely to be Thursday June 15th in person at Kings Hill.

Tom Shelley. February 11th 2023