

## Outside Bodies – Reports from Councillors

The following updates have been received from Councillors in relation to the outside bodies to which they have been appointed by Full Council:

	Outside Body	Councillor	Update
1	Wave Leisure	Laurence O'Connor	<p>Wave Leisure Trust has started the year well as it recently opened a brand-new gym incorporating a multi-use activity space at the Downs Leisure Centre. Despite the continuing constraints of the pandemic people are returning to health and fitness activities. Direct debit collection on memberships is continuing to improve with membership revenue slightly above the Trusts' budgetary forecasts.</p> <p>Membership fees have been reviewed from January with any increases kept to a minimum. It is also the intention to consider pay scales to ensure that Wave is one of the better paying employers in the sector.</p> <p>The emphasis within the Trust Board is now to move away from looking at the operational impacts of Covid and to focus upon the things that it considers are important to the ongoing sustainability of the business, particularly with forthcoming challenges of such things as utility price increases. This would also include the social and environmental impact of Wave within the local community.</p> <p>One aspect of that was a recent discussion about looking into installing boiler optimisers at two of the sites. Fortunately, the District's Lead Officer for Sustainability is working closely with the Trust on looking at funding opportunities for a project. There are already photo voltaic panels on Lewes and Downs roof, which were previously installed by Lewes District Council and have generated significant amounts of electricity over the years.</p>
2	Impact Seaford	Christine Brett	<p><u>Date of meeting:</u> 29 November 2021</p> <p><u>Business discussed:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Short and Long term project progress was updated including signage in the town and plans for future tourism</li> </ul>

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			<p>investment which has rather been on hold during the pandemic.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• It was agreed that information would be sought about vaccination centre in Seaford and progress with Talland Parade. Dialogue continues.</li> <li>• New board member Rachel Brown welcomed from the Chamber of Commerce (CofC). The CofC has details of the survey material collected in the past about desirability of a local hotel with meeting rooms, which she agreed to provide.</li> <li>• The meeting also welcomed Kevin Rice from the Community Partnership.</li> <li>• Update was received from the Youth Forum about the 'Use it or Lose it Scheme' for local shops.</li> <li>• We are pleased Seaford will join the independent Christmas shops Hamper competition this year as well.</li> <li>• Next meeting to be held on 7 March 2022.</li> </ul>
3	Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee (HOSC)	Christine Brett	<p><u>Date of meeting:</u> 2 December 2021</p> <p><u>Business discussed:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reconfiguration of cardiology services at Maidstone and Tunbridge Wells NHS Trust – an overview was given.</li> <li>• The transformation of Cardiology Services at East Sussex Healthcare NHS Trust (ESHT).</li> <li>• The transformation of ophthalmology Services at East Sussex Healthcare NHS Trust (ESHT).</li> </ul> <p><u>Decisions made:</u> To set up Review Boards to review both these potential changes at ESHT. Public consultations will also be taking place.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• East Sussex Winter Plan was discussed and questions were answered by the witnesses especially about staffing and beds to be made available.</li> <li>• Community Mental Health Services in East Sussex - discussed and questions</li> </ul>

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			<p>answered.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Redesigning Inpatient Mental Health Services in East Sussex. The decision to build at Sidley had already been made public.</li> <li>• Next meeting 3 March 2022.</li> </ul>
4	Armed Forces Champion for Council	Sharon Davy	<p><u>Visit to Battle on 23 November 2021</u></p> <p>I learnt about a wonderful charity called Veterans' Growth when I heard the founder, a veteran of 16 years in the Army who undertook tours in Afghanistan, Iraq, Northern Ireland, Sierra Leone and spent time in Germany.</p> <p>It is hard to give a sense of soul on virtual meetings, but I was inspired and determined to visit and see for myself what great work this charity is doing.</p> <p>The charity offers horticulture therapy and support for our ex-service personnel who are suffering from mental health issues. Visiting the Oast Farm, near Battle I met one of the veterans who said how much the enjoyment and benefit of being outdoors in a green environment, growing vegetables, plants, learning new skills and interacting with the local community have made a big difference to his life and many others. The charity is available for all veterans throughout our country.</p> <p>We owe so much to our Armed Forces – past and present.</p> <p><u>Armed Forces Bill 2021-22</u></p> <p>I regularly follow the progress of the Bill. While we are prepared to place our armed forces in harm's way during conflict, we also rely on them to lead on the reconstruction of devastated communities abroad and in civil emergencies at home, such as the current pandemic. We know we can rely on them. Too often, it can be easy to forget the additional challenges of a community whose experiences are often invisible to the rest of us.</p>

	<b>Outside Body</b>	<b>Councillor</b>	<b>Update</b>
4	<b>South Downs National Park Authority Meeting and Budget Workshops</b>	William Meyer	<p><u>Date of meeting:</u> 16 December 2021</p> <p><u>Business discussed:</u> The meeting is broadcast and recorded and available for public view.</p> <p><u>Decisions made:</u> See public website for full details and conduct of meeting.</p> <p>The Operating Agreement between the SDNPA and South Downs Commercial Operations Ltd (Seven Sisters County Park) was included in the public papers and formed a key element of the business of the meeting and was formally agreed. The Company becomes operational on 1 April 2022 initially for a 3-year period.</p> <p>The Budget meeting held prior to the public meeting is held in private session. This was the third of such meetings since summer 2021. Key discussions have concerned how to budget in light of the flat cash NPG settlement since end of 2019/2020. In additions there is a considered risk that the Glover Report response may increase expectations but without new funding being available. The latter point is also current below.</p>
5	<b>South Downs Commercial Operations Ltd</b>	William Meyer	<p><u>Dates of meetings:</u> Shadow Board of Directors meetings and various management meetings with the Manager the shadow South Downs Commercial Operations Ltd company have taken place on various dates.</p> <p><u>Business discussed:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Work is continuing at the Seven Sisters Country Park as visitors to the site will witness. The building works are extensive across the whole site. These are unlikely to be fully completed until the Autumn of 2022, including the final fit of new tourist accommodation cottages and the Camping Barn all sited at Foxholes.</li> <li>• An additional (external) Director was appointed by the shadow Board of Directors in December 2021.</li> </ul>

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6	<b>South Downs National Park Authority – Members’ Workshop</b>	William Meyer	<p><u>Date of meeting:</u> 27 January 2022</p> <p><u>Business discussed:</u>            Members’ Workshop held in Midhurst to discuss the SDNPA’s formal response to the recently published (15 January, 2022) Government response to the Glover Report (National Parks and AONBs) commissioned in May 2018 and published by the expert panel, led by Julian Glover, on 21 September 2019.</p> <p>It was noted by those Members present on 27 January that it had taken longer than originally anticipated to receive a formal response from Defra. Despite understandable problems created by the prevailing Covid 19 crisis, the length of the delay left many Members disappointed. Nevertheless, Members welcomed finally receiving the response from Defra and a full reply will be provided, in line with expectations by the due date.</p> <p>Decisions made: The Authority will be making a full response by 15 April.</p> <p>Park Members (not Officers) will be responding to those elements concerned with the governance of the Park following on from the Glover recommendations and question raised in the Defra response. I have been asked to work on the Task and Finish Group focussed exclusively on these issues.</p> <p>I expect to attend several meetings prior to April, alongside other Members chosen by the Chairman to formulate the SDNPA’s response.</p>