

Cllr. Ferris Cowper's District Councillor Newsletter Pre-Election Special 2019

Dear villagers,

As you know, Councillors are elected for a term of four years and my term expires with the election on Thursday 2nd May. These newsletters never contain political material, but I would like to say that it really is a privilege to have been your councillor for the past four years and of course, for the past 20 years!

Naturally I'm hoping for four more years, but that's up to you!

Grayshott is a village that has strong opinions voiced by thoughtful and articulate people and so anyone needs to be on their mettle if they want to claim to be your elected representative!! I love the challenge you offer and whether you agree with what I've done or not, I hope there is little doubt that I've done it with commitment, hard work and always with the long term benefits of Grayshott at heart.

Whether I continue to represent you or not after the 2nd May, I do thank you for the amazing experience.

Elections Thursday 2nd May

At every election I say the same thing. Whatever your views, PLEASE VOTE!!!!!!

I think the other thing that's worrying me is how people in England, (and Northern Ireland; no elections in Wales or Scotland), will see the issues. Obviously it's tempting to see a council election as a chance to express a view about a national party or, of course Brexit.

But those of us of all parties who are really working hard for local services can't do anything about these national issues. Many of us, I know, walked away from national and European politics specifically because there was much greater scope to improve people's lives when you're much closer to the coal face in a local context.

Please let all of us local councillors, of all parties and none, to carry on being local!

Grayshott Annual Parish Assembly Friday 26th April

This is taking place at 8pm in the village hall. It's always well attended and interesting so please make a point of being there.

Planning

All the major controversies are in a similar state to where they were when I reported to you earlier this month.

Grove House/The Grove. A planning application for a smaller number of flats has been submitted and is under consideration by the case officer.

Draft Local Plan

It's worth recapping on my notes in the previous newsletter as this is extremely important.

This very important document has been prepared by the council and is now out for consultation. You are welcome to comment. I had a role to play in its development and I'm very pleased with the outcome.

It's all round excellent news for Grayshott for several reasons.

Following the development at Applegarth Vale there is now no requirement for any new housing in the village, whether affordable or market price, for the foreseeable future. There can still be applications for "windfall" sites but the council is in a strong position to resist them if it deems them unsuitable.

Waggoners Estate is specifically included as an area of special housing quality and that will restrict development there to one dwelling per plot, this preserving the attractive and low density feeling of that part of Grayshott. This is the culmination of four years of lobbying by me on behalf of that community.

Kingswood Firs which has had this status for many years, retains it in the draft document.

There are no plans to enlarge the Settlement Policy Boundary, which means that the size of the "built up area" of Grayshott remains as is.

Car Parking

The new scheme will make it easier to "Stop, Shop and Go" in Grayshott as one well known shopkeeper put it to me, and we're just waiting for the final plans for wall mounted signage,.

Grants

I reported on my 2018-2019 grants in my previous newsletter. The new grant year begins in June.

Government in Grayshott 2019, Friday 5th July

Some of you may remember that I put on these very popular events every now and then. It's entirely my project which I plan, organise and pay for personally.

If you haven't been to one, the idea behind it is to present to Grayshott, in the village hall, on one evening, all of your locally elected representatives from all levels of Government.

It's going to be held on Friday 5th July in the village hall at 7.30. You will see on the platform your Parish Council Chairman, your District Councillor, your County Councillor and your MP. Who knows, we may even have an MEP there!!!!

And finally.....

I have been supplying written reports to Grayshott Parish Council's Full Council every other month and I have also been attending those meetings.

In addition to that, these web newsletters have been posted on www.grayshott.com, (and its predecessor website with the same name but different technology), since 2003!!! Thanks for reading them for 16 years!

If you have any queries, complaints or just want information about EHDC, don't go into a chat room, speak to me!!! You can get me easily as follows;

Cllr. Ferris Cowper
Cabinet Member for Whitehill and Bordon
and ward member for Grayshott.

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