

## **Annual District Council Report to the Parish**

Lewes District Council has had its ups and downs over the last 12 months but there have been many more ups than downs.

We have had changes in Leaders, changes in Officers and the merging of Councils, (Eastbourne and Lewes).

The merging of the Councils was not easy and we did have our problems but the merging of the back office staff and other systems are now proving beneficial. The telephone system also seems to be improving. We still have the occasional hiccup but things are a lot better.

After almost 3 years work, Newick Parish Council with the help of their Steering Group and contributions from many other people and societies - produced their Neighbourhood Plan (NP).

The purpose of the PLAN was to provide at least 100 houses to be delivered from now to the year 2030. The houses were to be of the type required, in the locations that were best suited to the village. This plan was to be locally driven from the people up, as required by Eric Pickles M.P.

Developers are still trying to ride rough shod over our NP but your Parish Council and I are doing our best to resist them.

The Council's waste and recycling service goes from strength to strength. We now have our wheelie bins for all our recycling, we still have a weekly collection of rubbish and food waste and for a small charge we can have our green waste collected.

The Council is delivering more new affordable homes in the District and is building social housing for rent to be added to the Council's housing stock.

The Council will continue to encourage the reduction of the use of plastics in the Council's buildings and promote plastic reduction events throughout the area.

This will be my last report to the Parish as I am not standing again for election so I would like to say thank you to the people that have helped me during my 12 years of service and say it has been an honour.

Jim