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Report to Parish Councils – May 2021

I am of course very pleased to have been elected to represent Northern Rother and hope to give at least a good a service as Councillor Angharad Davies. This report is a little shorter than normal as the new council has only just had its first meeting and I am, of course, still getting up to speed.

Council Organisation

The new county council is made up of 27 Conservative, 11 Liberal Democrat, 5 Labour, 4 Green and 3 independent councillors.

At a short and minimal council meeting this morning (due to pandemic restrictions) Keith Glazier was re-elected as leader and announced a largely unchanged cabinet. He also announced that priorities include recovery from COVID and making ESCC carbon neutral as quickly as possible.

COVID update

As of 20th May, East Sussex has the lowest rate amongst upper tier authorities of 12 cases per 100,000 population putting us at the bottom of the list of 149 such authorities, which is of course very good. However, there is concern about the potential escalation of rates due to new variants.

As regards vaccinations, on 14th May, the latest date for which I have figures, nearly 1.5 million jabs had been given to people across Sussex (both East and West), approximately 950,000 people having had their first dose and 500,000 both doses. East Sussex has about 39% of the population across the two counties. Vaccinations are currently being offered to people aged 32 and over. 90% of priority groups 1 to 9 have had their first dose and 47% their second dose.

Despite case numbers being so low it is vital that we all remain alert to pick up early signs of infection. We should also consider regular testing using lateral flow tests, particular as people return to work and socialise. These are free and can be picked up from many supermarkets and chemists or ordered to be delivered by post.

Cases

I already have a number of cases where I am supporting parish councils, organisations and residents. Please let me know if you have any issue where I may be able to help. Even if it falls outside my area of influence, I would like to be kept informed and will work closely with district councillors and organisations as appropriate. My contact details are available on the web and shown above. E-mail is always best, but phone and post also work!

Paul