Report for Lyminge Parish Council 30 October 2023

Work is under way at Kent County Council to bring expenditure in Social Care and transport for children with Special Educational Needs back in line with budget. We’re also looking to sell the County Hall building at Sessions as we reduce the number of buildings we use. On the difficult issue of Unaccompanied Asylum-Seeking Children, interim court judgements make KCC responsible for the care of all the under 18-year-olds who arrive in Kent seeking asylum and, whilst the Government has allocated us extra funding, it’s clearly impossible for one council to deal with this situation for any length of time.

One area where KCC’s work is fully funded by Government is for the creation of a Local Nature Recovery Strategy. KCC has been given responsibility for leading this work in Kent and Medway. There’s a special grant to cover the costs and the strategy will be one of 48 across England with no gaps and no overlaps. The completed strategies are intended to become part of the planning system. It’s about identifying and mapping the areas that are already important for nature and identifying how to make them larger, more abundant in wildlife and how best to connect them. The project is called **Making Space for Nature** and there’s a dedicated website <https://www.makingspacefornaturekent.org.uk/>

Stakeholder engagement groups are being set up to:

* provide dedicated working groups focusing on a specific aspect of the LNRS’s development.
* enable engagement with stakeholders on matters specific to their area of interest and/or influence.
* provide a forum through which the Strategy can benefit from the input of the wide collective expertise within Kent.

Stakeholders are being asked to register against the stakeholder groups they would like to be involved with.  You can do this at [https://forms.office.com/e/KZBb5PLyb5](https://eur01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fforms.office.com%2Fe%2FKZBb5PLyb5&data=05%7C01%7CSusan.Carey%40kent.gov.uk%7C23bc198a1d89494228b208dbd13c67ac%7C3253a20dc7354bfea8b73e6ab37f5f90%7C0%7C0%7C638333829618137213%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=YMXi6OX7SJut76T2VA%2Bw%2BgT7Xxy9RnqCaT3w0CnW98s%3D&reserved=0)

We are asking all partners to let us know of any data, evidence or expertise they would be willing to make available to the development of the strategy - [https://forms.office.com/e/fYCQFrQh5p](https://eur01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fforms.office.com%2Fe%2FfYCQFrQh5p&data=05%7C01%7CSusan.Carey%40kent.gov.uk%7C23bc198a1d89494228b208dbd13c67ac%7C3253a20dc7354bfea8b73e6ab37f5f90%7C0%7C0%7C638333829618137213%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=b0uICdyQ8vIbCfyH1aTeKfH4ya%2FqJjvo2MU1C%2BBcjak%3D&reserved=0)

We are also asking all partners to let us know of any ways in which they can support the project’s communication and engagement work, through their own existing activities – [https://forms.office.com/e/gAC9EebL8L](https://eur01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fforms.office.com%2Fe%2FgAC9EebL8L&data=05%7C01%7CSusan.Carey%40kent.gov.uk%7C23bc198a1d89494228b208dbd13c67ac%7C3253a20dc7354bfea8b73e6ab37f5f90%7C0%7C0%7C638333829618137213%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=IYC8rn0RjaKWk%2FTqMc2tUTf%2FbQ%2BuHgG5m4rF1N1VMLM%3D&reserved=0)

Finally, I have contacted Pentland to ask that they do more to communicate about their planned roadworks both here and in Hawkinge.

Susan Carey, Member for Elham Valley