

Members' Update – East Sussex County Council – October 2024
Cllr Bob Bowdler - Wealden East Division - *"The Heart of Wealden"*

(Wealden East Division:

Heathfield, Horam, Hooe, Herstmonceux, Ninfield, Warbleton & Wartling parishes)
(and temporarily Pevensey Parish Council)

LOCAL ISSUES:

Update: Punnetts Town Road works (water): Now Progressing towards Three Cups Corner, but still two sets of lights remain along Battle Road. No diversions currently in place, as far as I am aware, but another 12 months of this to go!

Heathfield Youth Centre: Works on the new building are progressing at pace, with section of the prefabricated construction having arrived late October.

Children in Care:

As the Lead Member for Children & Families in the County, I make no apology for including the link below, which is our latest film to promote the importance of Fostering with our own East Sussex Fostering Service. But be warned, it's emotional (more information below):

eastsussex.gov.uk/EverythingFosteringFilm

Plea from the Heathfield Branch of the Royal British Legion:

Recently the branch was near to closing due to the lack of support, by both veterans and lay supporters of the RBL. The branch covers Heathfield, Warbleton and Horam Parishes and meets at Heathfield Ruby Club. The contact is Graham Baldwin (Chairman) at:

safegraham@gmail.com

COUNTY REPORT:

County Wide Public Consultation:

VIEWS are being sought on proposals to introduce a booking system at household waste recycling sites across the county. The move could reduce queuing at sites, help save East Sussex County Council as much £50,000 a year and help ensure only residents' waste is being disposed. The proposals are part of the authority's work to identify areas where savings can be made to address an expected £55 million funding gap next year.

The proposal would see the introduction of a booking portal on which residents would be able to book a time to visit one of the county's 10 household waste recycling sites. Residents will also be able to book via telephone. As well as helping the county council make much-needed savings, the new system would reduce queuing at busier sites, help stop trade waste being taken to sites and stop people from outside the county using the facilities to which they do not contribute.

The consultation opened on Monday, October 28 and will run for eight weeks, closing on Sunday, December 22. Your views will be taken into account when council makes a decision in February 2025:

<https://consultation.eastsussex.gov.uk/economy-transport-environment/booking-system-household-waste-recycling-sites/>

Adult Social Care

ESCC approve plans for the Household Support Fund

Plans for the allocation of funds from the Household Support Fund (HSF) were agreed by the council this month. The Household Support Fund, intended to support those who are struggling with bills and essential costs, was extended last month by central government. East Sussex County Council has been allocated just under £3.9 million over the next six months to support eligible residents.

This grant will see continued allocation to a range of needs including food banks and vouchers, providing support to vulnerable families and children, and helping pensioners and disabled people who are at risk of food and fuel poverty. Over recent years the cost-of-living pressures have grown and are now affecting more people and families. The allocation of funds considers the increased financial pressures on all households and partners over the winter period. Consultations with delivery partners will help to ensure the best use of the funds.

Funds will be distributed through a variety of partners, including District and Borough Councils and the voluntary sector, who have helped to administer previous funds. Engaging with the same partners will provide continuity and aid with the effective administration of the fund.

More information regarding the Household Support Fund can be found [here](#).

Children's Services

More students to take steps to success

Pupils from across East Sussex have been selected to join a programme which supports young people as they move from school into work, training and further education.

Between September 2024 and August 2026, the Steps to Success programme will work with 315 current year 10 students to develop personal and career development goals to help them with finding opportunities at the end of year 11.

The county council has been awarded over £480,000 for the scheme, which is phase two of a national research programme into supporting young people with their post-16 options. After phase one nine out of ten participating students in East Sussex progressed to sustained post-16 education, employment or training.

From September, the Phase Two project will work with groups of students who are eligible for free school meals and are either persistently absent from school, or have a special

educational need or disability (SEND). Students will receive 1:1 coaching to help develop personal and career development goals.

More information regarding the scheme can be found [here](#).

New film pays tribute to foster carers

The new film released this month pays tribute to the unsung heroes of the foster care system.

“Everything” highlights the difference one individual can make to the lives of many through fostering. The fictional story played out in the film centres on foster carer Mike and his family. Mike’s wife organises a surprise 60th birthday party for him and invites two of the children they looked after, who are now adults.

The film has been produced by a partnership of councils and children’s trusts across the country to promote local authority fostering. The project is the largest public sector fostering film collaboration to date, with over 100 participants including East Sussex County Council.

Help and advice is available to county council foster carers, day or night and every foster carer has a dedicated social worker who is locally based in East Sussex. In addition, a 24-hour telephone helpline is available, seven days a week.

Communities, Economy and Transport

Apprentices invited to celebrate success

Apprentices from across East Sussex are invited to celebrate their achievements at this year’s graduation ceremony. The evening event will acknowledge the commitment and hard work of local apprentices of all ages and levels, across all sectors.

The East Sussex Apprenticeship Graduation Ceremony will take place at the Winter Garden’s Floral Hall in Eastbourne on, 21 November from 6.00pm to 8.00pm.

Apprentices who have, or will have, achieved their apprenticeship between 1 November 2023 and 1 November 2024, and live or work in the local authority area of East Sussex, are eligible to graduate and are invited to this year’s event.

The Apprenticeship Graduation Awards acknowledge the contribution of those involved in making apprenticeships a success in East Sussex and will be presented at the ceremony. Former apprentices, businesses that employ apprentices, and training providers who deliver apprenticeships are also invited to join the 2024 graduates and celebrate with them.

More information regarding the event and how to register can be found [here](#).

For your information: **Meetings I attended in October as your County Councillor:**

ESCC 3 x Weekly DCS/ADCS Briefings
Warbleton Parish Council SLR
LM for Education and SEND
Visit to Heathfield Army Cadet Force
ESCC Full Council
AFC (South East) Employment Impact Conference
GATCOM Steering Group - Gatwick
ESCC 'Be a Councillor' Panel - Lewes
WSCC Armed Forces Covenant Conference – Horsham
South East Virtual REEG Meeting (Veteran Employment)
Virtual School Governors – Bedes School
ESCC Planning Committee
Joint meeting ESCC & B&HCC AFC's - Brighton
ESCC Cabinet Briefing
Coram Voice (Children in Care) Event – Bedes School
Horam Parish Council
ESCC Children in Care Awards – Bedes School
ESCC Cabinet Briefing
Herstmonceux Parish Council
MOD Annual Armed Forces Covenant Conference - Winchester
Warbleton Parish Council DNA
ESCC AFC & CiC HR Working Relationship
Senior Staff Interviews
GATCOM Planning Workshop
East & West Sussex Lord Lieutenants Awards - Lancing



1/11/24