

Members' Update – East Sussex County Council – November 2024

Cllr Bob Bowdler - Wealden East Division - *"The Heart of Wealden"*

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

LOCAL ISSUES:

Armed Forces Covenant: If there are any serving military personal, or their families, or retired military veterans (including reservists), I am the East Sussex Armed Forces Champion, and a veteran myself, and your point of contact should you need any additional help or support.

16 to 23 year olds: Parents and teachers should be aware of the support offered by *Wealden Works Youth Charity*, based in Heathfield, which offers **free** help, advice, training and support for anyone in this age group who is having difficulty with Education, Employment or Training, irrespective if they are a Wealden resident or not: www.wealdenworks.co.uk

We held a fabulous fund raising Bingo night this month, at which I was the 'Caller'. A really fun night, which we hope to repeat in February for Valentines Night.

Gatwick Airport: As a member of the 'Gatwick Noise Management Board', I thought you may be interested to learn: Our Division of Wealden East sits directly below one of the principle flight paths into and out of Gatwick. Within the latest published noise complaints figures, this year to date, 1 noise related complaint was received from Warbleton PC area, and 1 from the Heathfield PC area. The airport provides in the region of 36,000 direct jobs (70,000+ when you include support and subsidiary services) <https://www.gatwickairport.com/company/careers.html>

Update: Punnetts Town Road works (water): Now almost through Punnetts Town and heading towards Three Cups Corner, to join the work already completed there. Still two sets of lights remain along Battle Road, but we 'should' be losing the second one shortly as they marry the two projects

COUNTY REPORT:

Communities, Economy and Transport

£18,000 boost for project to inspire young engineers

A pilot programme to inspire the next generation of engineers will launch in Hastings due to an £18,000 funding boost.

East Sussex County Council successfully bid on behalf of Skills East Sussex for £18,000 from the Royal Academy of Engineering to fund after-school clubs and give pupils practical experience. The after-school clubs will give primary school pupils the chance to take part in 'real world' activities and projects, building and creating solutions.

The 1066 Future Engineer project will run at Robsack Wood Primary Academy and Churchwood Primary Academy from January and will be led by local volunteer engineers with support from the schools.

The funding is part of an ongoing programme funded by the Department for Science, Innovation and Technology to change perceptions of engineering and encourage young people to consider a career in the sector.

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

£1m boost for skills projects across Hastings and Rother

A range of projects designed to support training and boost employability across Hastings and Rother will share Government funding worth £1 million.

East Sussex County Council will distribute the Skills Capital Fund between a total of 11 projects that will help enhance the local skills and training offer in line with the priorities of Skills East Sussex, the local multi-agency strategic skills board.

The Board's aim is to support the local economy and residents by ensuring a skilled workforce and relevant training for young people and adults. It also focuses on maximising the benefits of future opportunities related to new technology and net zero.

Organisations were invited to bid for a share of the funding, awarded to Hastings Borough Council and Rother District Council, and 23 bids were assessed by a panel.

The successful projects include the creation of a new digital skills classroom at East Sussex College, a project to support adults with learning disabilities and autism, the development of virtual reality healthcare training at Bexhill College, mobile training units for the land-based sector in rural Sussex and the creation of a community carpentry studio.

More information regarding the fund and its recipients can be found [here](#).

New project gives students digital careers insight

An initiative to raise awareness of digital careers and equip young people with the skills to access tech opportunities has been launched in East Sussex.

The East Sussex Digital Futures Accelerator (DFA) programme offers a series of activities to schools and employers which aim to increase the number of students pursuing careers and opportunities locally in the digital and technology sector. The county-wide pilot scheme is one of only five national projects being funded by The Careers & Enterprise Company, the national body for careers education.

The county council has been awarded £125,000 for the two-year programme, which will work with year 10 students from ten schools across the county.

Events will be run in participating schools with the aim of improving young people's understanding of digital careers, as well as industry-specific and general employer expectations. Accompanying webinars will be run for parents and carers.

More information about the initiative can be found [here](#).

Young people put their stamp on new Youth Hub

Young people in Heathfield have participated in art activities to decorate a new state-of-the-art youth hub. The development of a fully accessible, two-storey facility on the High Street is underway due to £8million of grant funding from the Government's Youth Investment Fund to upgrade two youth centres in East Sussex.

As work progresses to replace the old 1950s youth club building, local young people took part in a series of urban art activities to encourage them to take ownership of their new space. Three graffiti workshops were held in October where young people worked with local artist Tom Goulden to create graffiti messages.

Over 20 young people participated in the youth voice graffiti sessions, working as a team to create the artwork. The graffiti murals have now been mounted to the construction site hoardings, illustrating the positive messages that young people associate with the youth club including 'friendship', 'fun' and 'hope'.

In addition to the graffiti workshop, local young people worked with the architects on the new Youth Hub's design, and they have recently made decisions about furnishings and colour schemes.

More information regarding the artwork is available [here](#).

Governance Services

Remembrance Sunday

In East Sussex, events were held across the county on Remembrance Sunday as residents gathered to honour those who lost their lives in conflict. Remembrance parades were held in towns across the county, including a minute's silence to allow residents to reflect on the lives lost since the First World War.

More information on some of the events which took place across the county can be found [here](#).

For your info: **Meetings I attended in November as your County Councillor:**

LM for Education and SEND
ESCC 2 x Weekly DCS/ADCS Briefings
East Sussex District & Borough Armed Forces Champions
Gatwick Noise Management Board
Pevensey Parish Council FC
Member Briefing on Community Development
ESCC Whole Council Forum
Wartling Parish Council FC
ESCC Harm to Hope Partnership (Drug & Alcohol)
ESCC Childrens Services Staff Conference
ESCC Wreath Laying - Heathfield
GATCOM Workshop - Gatwick
Employer Engagement – Highways Contractor
Safeguarding Children Expert Workshop
ESCC Cabinet DNA
Reopening of Childrens Home - Eastbourne

Horam Parish Council FC
Gatwick NaTMAG (Noise & Track Monitoring Advisory Group)
Herstmonceux Parish Council FC
Heathfield Parish Council
Senior Staff Interviews
Joint Action Committee (Unions)
GATCOM
Ninfield Parish Council FC
Ninfield Parish Council SLR
ESCC Cabinet Briefing
National Childrens & Adult Social Care Conference - Liverpool



3/12/24