

Members' Update – East Sussex County Council – December 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:

Horam & Ninfield Parishes:

Proposed Lower Speed Limit on A267 Horam Road at Horam and A269 Bexhill Road at Ninfield: (short version, full text coming to all parishes direct):

The Road Safety Team have now completed an appraisal which assessed each road against a prioritisation framework. This took into account a range of factors such as the character of the road and the environment, the average speed of vehicles, the likely number of vulnerable road users, facilities such as schools, shops and medical facilities in the area and the existing crash record. This process has identified a priority list of sixteen sites which will be taken forward over the first two years of the Speed Management Programme.

- **Horam:** It is proposed that the existing 50mph speed limit on the A267 Horam Road be reduced to 40mph between the 40mph speed limit at Horam and a point just south of Swanbrook Lane at Cogger's Cross.
- **Ninfield:** It is proposed that the existing 60mph national speed limit between the existing 40mph speed limit at Lunsford Cross and the existing 40mph speed limit in Ninfield be reduced to 40mph.

Heathfield, Rushlake Green & Punnetts Town:

Water main replacement - Update from the contractor:

To make sure there's no disruption over the festive season, we'll be leaving the area from **Friday 20 December 2024 to Thursday 2 January 2025**. Before we leave, we'll return the road to a useable condition and there will be no temporary traffic lights along Battle Road or Cade Street.

When we return in the New Year, we'll be working at the junction of the A265 (Burwash Road) and the B2096 (Battle Road), and at the junction of Hugletts Lane and the B2096 (Cade Street).

- **Junction of A265 (Burwash Road) and B2096 (Battle Road)**
We'll also be starting work at the junction of Battle Road and the A265 (Burwash Road). This will also be under traffic lights, starting on the A265.
- **Junction of Hugletts Lane and B2096 (Cade Street)**
We need to make a connection from the new main to our existing network at this junction. This will take place between **Monday 6 January to Monday 20 January**, with Hugletts Lane closed between 9:00am and 4:00pm, Monday to Saturday. There will be traffic lights on the B2096 (Battle Road). During these times, there will be restricted access and no right turn out of Hugletts Lane towards Heathfield and no left turn into Hugletts Lane from the Heathfield direction.

Heathfield:

Early in December I attended the 'Topping Out' ceremony of the new Youth Centre in the town. This was the laying of the final pre-fabricated section of the building. It also provided an opportunity to raise a Community Value addition to the project, i.e. the cladding of the covered 5-a-side pitch at the rear – Fingers Crossed!

Pevensey Parish:

Royal Coastal Route (report below): Residents have made me aware of an issue regarding the path along the beach in Pevensey. I am working with officers in an attempt to resolve the issue.

COUNTY REPORT:

Children's Services

Refurbished children's home reopens following storm damage

Staff and residents at a children's residential home in Eastbourne celebrated its reopening recently following storm damage last year.

The Bungalow, which accommodates up to seven children and young people aged between 7 and 19 with complex needs and disabilities, suffered extensive damage when Storm Ciaran hit last October. High winds got under the roof and rainwater penetrated the building causing severe damage to the bedrooms and electrics.

Repairs and planned refurbishments to the building have been carried out over the last year to ensure the building is safe and meets the needs of the residents.

Despite the young people being housed temporarily in Bexhill, staff worked hard to ensure the disruptions to the children's lives was minimised including coordinating and managing the school transport so the children could continue their schooling in Eastbourne.

At a special event children, staff and parents celebrated the refurbished home and the new facilities, which include a sensory room, a fitted kitchen, newly refurbished bedrooms and bathrooms, and a range of outdoor games and activities as well as an enclosed fire pit.

More information regarding the children's home can be found [here](#).

Communities, Economy and Transport

Royal coastal route extended across East Sussex

Another 28 miles (45km) of the King Charles III England Coast Path have opened in East Sussex. The new section forms part of what will be the world's longest managed trail when all 2,700 miles (4,345km) are joined up.

Natural England has worked with East Sussex County Council, Wealden and Rother District Councils, Ramblers and Sussex Wildlife Trust to develop the new part of the trail.

The route starts at Eastbourne Pier and follows Normans Bay and Cooden Beach towards Bexhill Promenade and the Grade I-listed De La Warr Pavilion and on to Hastings. The path joins Hastings Country Park before turning inland towards Fairlight and Winchelsea, then Rye Harbour. Throughout the route, the many Martello Tower forts that have dotted England's coastline since the Napoleonic Wars can be seen. The King Charles III England Coast Path aims to stay as close to the sea as possible.

The route between Eastbourne and Rye Harbour means completed sections of the Coast Path across the South East make up a near 240-mile (386km) course from Chichester to Brighton and Hove, beyond Eastbourne and Rye Harbour, to the Medway Towns, and on to Woolwich in south-east London.

The National Trails website includes maps and advice on route planning.

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

Work to make 16 East Sussex sites safer begins

Work has begun on measures to reduce driver speeds as part of a programme to make East Sussex roads safer.

A detailed assessment was carried out on the county's A and B roads against factors including the character of the road and the environment, the average speed of vehicles, the level of vulnerable road users, facilities such as schools, shops and hospitals in the area, and the existing crash record.

Through this initial process, 16 roads have been prioritised as sites that could benefit from speed limit reductions or measures to make the existing speed limit more effective. Improvements that will be introduced include extensions or reduction in speed limits, Vehicle Activated Signs, road surface treatments, and new signage and lining.

Public consultations on the introduction of lower speed limits at 13 other locations across the county are due to begin in the New Year.

These schemes will be implemented over the first two years of the council's Speed Management Programme. Further sites will then be assessed, prioritised and changes introduced in future years.

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

Congratulations to apprentice graduates

The achievements of apprentices from across East Sussex were celebrated at a special graduation ceremony last month.

The East Sussex Apprenticeship Graduation Ceremony, held on the evening of 21 November, recognised the commitment and hard work of East Sussex apprentices from across all industry sectors and of all ages and levels. The evening also celebrated the contributions of local businesses and educators to the programme and underlined the importance of apprenticeships to the local economy.

Over 50 apprentices registered to graduate at the event held at the Winter Garden's Floral Hall in Eastbourne, supported by their employers, apprenticeship training providers and family members. Graduation certificates were presented on the evening to attendees who completed their apprenticeships between 1 November 2023 and 1 November 2024.

During the ceremony, four special awards based on nominations received from employers, colleagues, apprenticeship providers, and apprentices were presented to celebrate the outstanding achievements of all those involved in the apprenticeship journey.

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

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

ESCC 2 x Weekly DCS/ADCS Briefings
East Sussex Civil Military Partnership Board
Gatwick Noise Management Board
Pevensey Parish Council FC
ESCC Cabinet
ESCC Governance Committee
ESCC Children in Care Council
East Sussex Foster Carers Association AGM
Hooe Parish Council
Herstmonceux Parish Council
Horam Parish Council
Ninfield Parish Council
East Sussex Safeguarding Childrens Partnership

“Thank You for all your support over the past year, and Happy New Year to you all!”



29/12/24