

East Sussex County Council – Parish Report
Clr Bob Bowdler - 1 November 2021

Adult Social Care and Health

East Sussex gains nearly £4million from government to help households through winter

Vulnerable households in East Sussex will be able to access financial help to support them with essentials such as food and utility bills over the coming months as part of the government's Household Support Fund. East Sussex councils will receive £3,896,783.88 of the fund. Those who think they could benefit should contact the council for more details on what will be available in their community.

Children's Services

New Eastbourne special needs school to open in Autumn 2022

A new special needs school for children aged 5-16 is set to open its doors in Autumn 2022. The new school will create 135 local school places for children with autism and/or complex learning and medical needs. The school will be managed by the Southfield Trust on behalf of East Sussex County Council.

Apprenticeship scheme for vulnerable residents launched

An innovative pilot scheme to boost apprenticeships and training vulnerable residents has launched. The Moving On Up Employment and Apprenticeship Scheme will help those in supported and temporary accommodation or at risk of homelessness access apprenticeship placements and vocational training. Participants will receive mentoring support to help with their individual learning, and financial support will be provided so employers can pay a sufficient wage to apprentices so they can ultimately live independently. The pilot scheme will be managed by the council's new Employability for Supported and Temporary Accommodation and Refuges (ESTAR) initiative.

Communities, Economy and Transport

East Sussex County Council announces additional funds in fight against climate change

Councillors have affirmed the importance of ecological planning and protecting natural diversity as the authority continues its efforts to tackle climate change.

At a meeting of the council on Tuesday 14 October, councillors agreed to set aside an extra £8.85 million to be spent on reducing climate change and in improving the county's highways for walkers, cyclists, and motorists. The council has also agreed to write to the county's MPs asking them to press ministers for greater direction, detail, and support to assist the council in delivering on its net-zero target.

Green light for new cycling and walking plan

The council's East Sussex Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan, which proposes an ambitious network of preferred cycling and walking routes across the county, was agreed by councillors last month.

The county's first plan focuses on areas where there is the greatest opportunity to increase levels of cycling and walking and therefore, to attract external funding, such as the coastal strip and larger market towns in the county. In rural areas, the council will look at how walking and cycling can be supported through its local transport plan.

Ambitious plans to improve bus services in East Sussex

The council's Bus Service Improvement Plan (BSIP) has been backed by the lead member for Transport & Environment ahead of its submission to government. The plan sets out the council's strategy to significantly increase bus use around the county by improving the overall network, making it more reliable, more affordable, and more accessible.

One of the most significant changes proposed is the replacement of many traditional bus routes with Digital Demand Responsive Transport (DDRT) schemes, which would see fixed bus routes replaced with routes which change day-to-day based on passengers booking journeys.

Cash boost for Seaford tree project

The national Local Authority Treescapes Fund has awarded over £299,000 to Seaford to renovate and plant trees across the town.

The successful bid by East Sussex County Council will see over 150 new trees planted by the end of February 2022, and the grant includes three years of follow up maintenance to ensure the saplings are successfully established. The grant also includes a contribution of £2,000 for the local community group 'Trees for Seaford' to help them purchase 90 trees to be planted this season.

Cllr Bob Bowdler 1/11/21