

Members' Update – East Sussex County Council – January 2024
Cllr Bob Bowdler - Wealden East Division - “The Heart of Wealden”

(Wealden East Division:- Heathfield, Horam, Hooe, Herstmonceux, Ninfield, Warbleton & Wartling parishes)

Highways Reporting a Personal Experience:

A parish recently reported that there were dangerous tree branches leaning on power lines immediately adjacent to the highway and asked me to report it. I went the extra mile and created a map of the exact spot and included several photos, then pressed SEND to our own Highways department. Shortly afterward a response was received asking me to report it to Power Networks, as it would be their responsibility.

This I did, and after some length discovered that Power Networks did not have any overhead cables in that area, therefore the cables would be an issue for BT and /or Openreach, so I should report to them.

After several attempts and failing to find a suitable email address for BT/Openreach to which I could make a report, I was reduced to ‘chatting’ to a helpful, but irritating, robot, probably located somewhere off shore, and which was an utter waste of time.

So I went further up the chain and sought more advice on how any individual could report potential problems with overhead lines, or trees, which were other than an “Immediate Danger to Life”. Seems no one is interested in prevention.

Eventually however, I did discover the link below, which anyone is encouraged to use to report dangerous, or potentially dangerous, situations covering BT cables, poles, cabinets or manholes (or call: 0800 023 2023):

<https://www.bt.com/help/landline/fix-a-problem/how-can-i-report-damage-to-bt-cables--poles--cabinets-or-manhole>

IF you are able to discriminate between cables belonging to Power Network and BT infrastructure, then the contact for Power Networks would be: 0800 316 3105 or 0800 029 4285 or 105.

At the time of writing no email address to report this type of incident was available for any of these providers. For anything you may believe to be an ‘immediate danger’, you may use the 999 emergency system, and all will require a Post Code if possible.

Bob



Communities, Economy and Transport

East Sussex residents asked to give views on Local Transport Plan

A public consultation asking local residents and businesses as well as the wider community what they think of the transport proposals for the county will run until 25 February. The plan looks ahead until 2050 and sets out how East Sussex County Council will plan and provide transport. The plan's objectives include decarbonising transport, creating safer and healthier communities, delivering better access to jobs and services, and improving transport reliability.

Residents who would like to take part online can view the consultation via the council's consultation hub [here](#). A copy of the consultation can also be requested by calling 0345 608 0190 or can be collected from libraries across East Sussex. Completed surveys can be returned by FREEPOST to County Hall in Lewes. Updates and further opportunities for public engagement on the plan can be found on the East Sussex County Council [website](#).

Read more about this story [here](#).

Reduced single bus fare scheme continues in Sussex

Bus passengers will continue to be able to get around Sussex for as little as £2 until next summer. Operator Stagecoach announced that they would be extending their £2 single bus fare scheme until June 2024 following its successful rollout earlier this year. The scheme will continue to be available on Stagecoach buses such as the 700 route operating in Sussex and nationwide.

Read more about this story [here](#).

Public asked for views on green connection project

The public are being asked for their views on the Public Realm and Green Connections project. East Sussex County Council, Hastings Borough Council and the Hastings Garden Town Team are working on plans which include greener connections for walking and cycling throughout the town, as well as improvements to public spaces. The project is supported by Transition Town Hastings and aims to complement the heritage of Hastings whilst creating spaces of public realm to promote wellbeing.

Members of the public can view proposals and give their views via the [East Sussex Consultation Hub](#). The consultation ends on Friday 1 March. Consultation events will be held for anyone wanting to find out more about the project and discuss the proposals with the project team – more details about these sessions can be found [here](#). Further information about the project can be found on the [Hastings Town Deal website](#).

Library to remain in place during Peacehaven development

Peacehaven Library is to remain in its current location following the announced closure of the Co-op in the Meridian centre. The county council's library and property teams had looked at a number of alternatives to ensure the town would continue to have access to a full service. Once the development is complete, the library will be able to move into the new building on the site.

Read more about this story [here](#).

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

ESCC 4 x Weekly DCS/ADCS Briefings
Meeting with ESCC Highways Officers
Private meeting with Parish Clerk
Meeting with Senior Social Workers - Eastbourne
Visit to Lansdown Secure Unit
ESCC Cabinet Briefing
ESCC Governance Committee
ESCC RPPR Session with Youth Cabinet and CiCC
Heathfield Parish Council – DNA
ESCC Staff Director Shortlisting
ESCC Corporate Parenting Panel
East Sussex D&Bs Armed Forces Champions
ESCC Virtual School Governors – Bedes School
ESCC RPPR Whole Council Forum
Herstmonceux Parish Council
Horam Parish Council
Wartling Parish Council – DNA
Hooe Parish Council – DNA
ESCC Cabinet
ESCC Governance Committee
Staff Meeting/Planning
ESCC Staff Director Final Interviews
Warbleton Parish Council
Sussex Police – Harm to Hope Partnership
Gatwick Consultative Committee – Gatwick
East Sussex Safeguarding Children Partnership Board



1/2/24