

MP Parish Report – June 2026

Letter to the New Leader of East Sussex County Council

Following the formation of the new Reform administration at East Sussex County Council, I have written to the new Leader, Cllr Wooley, to set out the priorities that residents across our constituency have consistently raised with me.

In my letter, I highlighted the urgent need to improve support for children with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND), address the growing pressures on adult social care, tackle the poor condition of our roads, and ensure that local infrastructure keeps pace with new development. I also stressed the importance of maintaining constructive working relationships between the County Council, district councils and local Members of Parliament so that we can deliver the best possible outcomes for our communities.

While political control of the council has changed, the challenges facing East Sussex remain the same. Residents rightly expect the council to focus on delivering high-quality public services and making responsible decisions on behalf of taxpayers. I have made clear that I stand ready to work constructively where it benefits local people, while continuing to hold the administration to account where necessary.

South East Water

Following ongoing concerns from residents about water supply across the constituency, particularly the prolonged shortages in Rodmell and concerns about infrastructure capacity in relation to proposed development in Ringmer, I have continued to press South East Water for answers and improvements. While some progress has been made, many residents remain concerned about the resilience of the local network and the company's communication when problems arise.

Reliable access to water is an essential service, and residents should not have to endure prolonged disruption or uncertainty. I have continued raising these issues with

both South East Water and Ministers, seeking assurances that the necessary investment will be made to strengthen local infrastructure and improve resilience.

This is particularly important as further housing development is proposed across the area. Infrastructure must be capable of supporting both existing and future communities, and water companies must be transparent about the capacity of their networks and the improvements needed. I will continue to press for greater accountability and for investment to be delivered before communities are placed under additional pressure.

Supporting Rural Pubs

Our rural pubs are much more than businesses; they are valued community assets that provide places for people to meet, support local employment and contribute to the character of our villages. However, many continue to face significant financial pressures from rising costs and changing trading conditions.

Last month, I spoke in a Westminster Hall debate on the future of rural pubs, highlighting the challenges facing local publicans and the action needed to support the sector. I raised concerns about increasing operating costs, including the impact of higher National Insurance contributions and business rates, as well as ongoing staffing pressures. I also emphasised the importance of recognising the unique role that rural pubs play in sustaining community life.

I will continue to work with local businesses, industry representatives and Ministers to ensure the needs of rural pubs are heard in Parliament. Protecting these important community hubs is not only about supporting local economies but also about preserving the social fabric of our villages for future generations.

Advice Surgeries

I continue to hold advice surgeries across the constituency. For security reasons, these cannot be advertised in advance. However, if you are aware of a resident who may need assistance, please encourage them to contact my office at james.maccleary.mp@parliament.uk.

I will also be attending events across our towns, villages and parishes over the summer and look forward to engaging with residents during these visits.