

Members' Update – East Sussex County Council – March 2024 Cllr Bob Bowdler - Wealden East Division - *"The Heart of Wealden"*

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

LOCAL ISSUES:

Horam: Long awaited footpath repairs due to commence shortly on the walking route to school.

Heathfield: Despite local rumours, the new Youth Centre remains on schedule. Highlighted the condition of Battle Rd & Cade Street to ESCC Highways.

Warbleton: Highway repairs at Turners Green completed after a re-inspection.

Wartling: Campaigned for highway repairs in the region of Wartling Road.

Herstmonceux: Drainage works south of Stunts Green.

All: Highway issues, and pot holes in particular, remain of concern throughout the division. Repair crews increased from 13 to 30 + 3 'Jet Patching' teams, but the weather is definitely not helping!

Communities, Economy and Transport

Levelling Up investment will help complete new road

East Sussex County Council leaders have welcomed government funding that will help complete a new road and open up land for employment space. The Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC) has allocated £2.5million of funding to East Sussex County Council as part of further investment in the Rother and Hastings Levelling Up Partnership areas.

The money will be used to complete the Queensway Gateway Road, linking Bexhill and the A21, relieving localised congestion and improving traffic flow. The funding will also support a number of projects aimed at addressing inequalities, regenerating key areas and boosting the local economy. Rother District Council and Hastings Borough Council will work with partners including East Sussex County Council, Sussex Police, the voluntary sector and Chambers of Commerce to deliver the projects.

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

Business support programmes launched in East Sussex

Two schemes providing support and training to local businesses are available in East Sussex. The Ready to Grow and Big Ambitions programmes, which have received £447,464 from the UK Government through the UK Shared Prosperity Fund, are open to companies based in Lewes, Eastbourne, Rother and Wealden districts.

Provision of the programmes, which are a collaborative project between Lewes District, Eastbourne Borough, Rother District and Wealden District Councils, is being managed by East Sussex County Council on behalf of the local authorities. Both programmes are being delivered by Digital Islands, a specialist provider of business support services. Ready to Grow and Big Ambitions will run until March 2025.

More information about the programmes and how to sign up can be found on the East Sussex County Council [website](#). Read more about this story [here](#).

Funding boost for road safety in Hastings

Road users will benefit following a successful bid for £875,000 to improve the safety of a road in Hastings. East Sussex County Council has been awarded funding from the government's Safer Roads Fund (SRF) to implement safety improvements on a section of the A2101. The scheme, which is the first Safer Roads Fund Scheme in East Sussex, will deliver improvements at 15 locations from the junction with the A21 to Park Crescent.

The SRF is an innovative programme from the Department for Transport that provides funding for the most high-risk 'A' roads in England.

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

More homes for Ukraine hosts needed

Since the beginning of the conflict in February 2022, over 800 host families have welcomed more than 1800 guests to the county, with local groups and organisations providing support and services to help them settle and achieve independence. With Ukrainians still being forced to flee their homes, and those already in the county looking for settled accommodation, residents are being asked to consider becoming a host family for those seeking refuge.

More information about the scheme can be found by emailing ukraine@eastsussex.gov.uk or calling the advice line between 10am and 4pm, Monday to Friday on 01273 337010.

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

ESCC 4 x Weekly DCS/ADCS Briefings
ESCC Cabinet Briefing
ESCC Governance Committee
East Sussex Health & Wellbeing Board
Heathfield Parish Council – Full Council
Wartling Parish Council – Full Council
Armed Forces Veterans Conference – Pirbright
People Scrutiny Committee
Additional DCS + DCS meeting
Horam Parish Council – Full Council
Young Carers Forum/Workshop – Eastbourne
Bexhill Jobs Fair
Children in Care Achievement Awards – Lower Dicker
Youth Cabinet Evening + Parents
Warbleton Parish Council Annual Assembly
Ninfield Parish Council – DNA
LM for Education and SEND
ESCC Cabinet Briefing
District & Borough Armed Forces Champions
Heathfield Parish Council Annual Assembly
Herstmonceux Parish Council Full Council & Annual Assembly
Warbleton Parish Council – Full Council DNA



3/4/24

