

## Members' Update – East Sussex County Council – October 2023

### Cllr Bob Bowdler - Wealden East Division

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

## Adult Social Care

### New family hubs open in Eastbourne

Families in the Eastbourne area can now access a range of support services under one roof as two new Family Hubs open their doors. They are the latest of the 11 Family Hubs East Sussex County Council to open this year, giving access to a host of professionals.

Visitors to the hubs can get support and advice from midwives, health visitors, Early Communications Support Workers, Early Years Practitioners, Community Engagement Coordinators and Early Years Keyworkers. Activity sessions will also give children, parents and carers the chance to socialise and support their children's needs and development.

More information about the Family Hubs can be found on the County Council's [website](#). Read more about this story [here](#).

### Day service celebrates 50 years

A special celebration event has been held to mark the Golden Jubilee of Beeching Park. This year, the service is celebrating 50 years of providing day services for people with learning disabilities. The park, which is the home of Hastings and Rother Day Service, has seen two monarchs, 12 Prime Ministers, and has delivered over 12,000 days of service.

The site has the latest facilities and equipment for clients' use, including training kitchens, activity rooms, a computer suite and a large garden for relaxation, gardening, and sports. The service opened on the Bexhill industrial estate in 1973 and became a day service providing activities and support to adults with learning disabilities in the late 1990s.

More information about Beeching Park is available on the [1 Space website](#).

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

### Free maths courses available for adults in East Sussex

Free maths courses are being offered in East Sussex to help adults build their numeracy skills and to mark Number Confidence week, which runs from the 6<sup>th</sup> to the 10<sup>th</sup> of November. The courses are being offered as part of a new national programme, The Multiply Project, to help improve people's confidence with numbers.

18 different maths and numeracy courses are being run at locations across the county including Plumpton, Hastings, Eastbourne, Lewes, Rye, and Newhaven. Courses are free and available to residents aged 19 or over, with beginner sessions to boost confidence and help participants build on the foundations of their maths knowledge, as well as more advanced offers up to a Level 2 Functional Skills Qualification.

All Multiply courses are fully funded and accept self-referrals. For more information and to sign up to courses, visit the [Careers East Sussex website](#). To find out more about Number Confidence Week, visit the [National Numeracy website](#).

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

## Communities, Economy and Transport

### East Sussex town to receive a Tree City of the World award

Bexhill has joined 170 towns and cities across the globe to receive a Tree City of the World 2023 award. Following a successful application by Rother District Council, the town is one of just 21 places in the UK to receive the accolade. Run by the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations, the award recognises cities and towns committed to ensuring that their urban forests and trees are properly maintained, sustainably managed, and celebrated.

More information about the award can be found on the programme's [website](#).

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

### County Council's support for Armed Forces wins GOLD Award

A commitment to support current and former military personnel and their families has earned East Sussex County Council national recognition. The authority has been given a Gold Award under the Ministry of Defence Employer Recognition Support Scheme, the highest honour which recognises the positive role employers play in supporting the armed forces community.

To achieve the accolade, the council had to provide 10 additional paid days leave for reservists, and have supportive HR policies in place for reservists, veterans, Cadet Force adult volunteers and the spouses and partners of those serving in the Armed Forces.

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

### New highways control hub to help plan work on county roads

New technology is now in place in the form of a control hub to enable East Sussex County Council's highways contractor to monitor activity, track work and find ways to improve the service.

The introduction of the hub follows the council's decision to invest an additional £15.7 million to address increasing road damage caused by extreme weather. The money is paying for more patching and surface dressing work to bring roads in poor condition up to a good standard and protect them for longer.

Reports of road defects can be made [online](#), where information about how East Sussex highways are managed and upcoming roadworks can also be found.

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

### Project explores impact of art on youth mental health

An ambitious project to examine the positive impact of art on mental health has been launched in East Sussex. To understand the specific mental health and wellbeing benefits exposure to the arts can have for children and young people, a survey has been commissioned by East Sussex County Council's Public Health team as part of the Eastbourne ALIVE project.

The survey will assess how Eastbourne ALIVE's artistic and creative activity contributes to children and young people's social, emotional and mental health, as well as their wellbeing. The information collected will be used to help shape future planning for mental health and wellbeing services in East Sussex.

Working with young people, local cultural organisations, businesses, and the wider community, Eastbourne ALIVE includes public art installations, dance and music events, as well as school visits to Towner Eastbourne.

More information about Eastbourne ALIVE can be found [here](#). Read more about this story [here](#).

## Governance Services

### Council receives positive peer review feedback

East Sussex County Council has received a strong vote of confidence following a recent independent peer review.

The council participated in a Corporate Peer Challenge (CPC) with the aim of further improving the authority's work. The review is offered to all local authorities by the Local Government Association and included a three-day site visit in June 2023. The independent CPC report found the county council to be well-run and well-managed, open and approachable as well as a trusted and respected partner. It also noted that it was clear from the interviews conducted that 'the organisation does what it says it will do and does it well', with the review team finding a strong record of delivery across all key service areas.

The final CPC Final Feedback Report can be found [online](#).

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

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

ESCC 4 x Weekly DCS/ADCS Briefings  
Wartling Parish Council  
Childrens Services Consultants – Lewes  
Armed Forces Covenant GOLD Awards – Portsmouth  
Horam GAP Opening  
ESCC Full Council  
Herstmonceux SLR  
ESSCP Board Meeting  
Horam Parish Open Evening  
ESCC Corporate Parenting Panel  
ESCC Cabinet Briefing  
Children in Care Achievement Awards – St Bedes  
Horam Parish Council  
Ninfield Parish Council – DNA  
Hooe Parish Council  
Lord Lieutenants Awards – Lancing Collage  
Warbleton Parish Council  
Borough & Districts Armed Forces Champions  
GATCOM (Gatwick) Meeting  
Youth Employment Scheme Meeting  
Turner Prize Presentation – Eastbourne  
We Can Make a Difference (NHS) Meeting - Brighton



Wealden East Division  
1 November 23