

East Sussex County Councillor Jeremy Birch Monthly Report

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Old Town 20 mph: The scheme is being designed now and covers the whole Old Town including Croft Road, a part of Harold Road (there is already a 20mph section near Dudley Road school) Rock-a-Nore Road, but not the Bourne. When it has been finalised it will go out for public consultation – I have suggested a public exhibition so everyone can see the plans and quiz highways staff who would be there. The thinking is currently that the scheme could be implemented in November and that making the top of High Street down to Torfield Close two-way (if it is accepted) could be done at the same time.

Coach Parking: Businesses, residents and the Stade Partnership complained that coaches were parking for lengthy periods in the pick-up and drop-off point close to the Cutter. I spoke with the parking and highways staff to encourage more enforcement here – the coaches are only meant to stay for ten or fifteen minutes to collect or set-down their passengers. Enforcement has been stepped up by the parking staff and the problem has eased. Do let me know if it persists though.

Isabel Blackman Centre: I attended a county council meeting on Isabel Blackman earlier this month. The building contract has been let. The contract jointly with Age Concern and the Newhaven Community Development Association to run the centre for day care and as a community hub has been approved. This contract is for an initial three years with an option to extend by another two. The director of adult social care did respond to my question to confirm again (in public) that the building will re-open in July this year – we look forward to the re-opening ceremony.

Highway Works: Resurfacing of the road in Tackleway is now in the highways department's schedule of works. The pavement at the bottom end of All Saints Street is to be repaired and I joined with residents in strongly objecting to the use of tarmac here rather than repairing the York stone. It seems that agreement has now been reached that the original paving will be repaired. Footway resurfacing and kerb repairs are planned for St George's Road and Calvert Road in June.

Mount Pleasant Road: I have been chasing the county council highways department to find out why the road safety works have not been completed even though they should have finished about four weeks ago. The pelican crossings are in and working but the vehicle activated sign close to the Shah warning speeding vehicles to slow down is still awaited. The new red anti-skid surfacing apparently requires the existing road surface to be in good condition and that work will have to be done first.

Sussex Arms: The new traffic lights with pedestrian phases seem to be working OK – do let me know if there are problems. Some residents, however, are worried about potential rat-running through other streets as drivers try to avoid the lights. My new borough council colleague – Cllr John Hodges – is taking this matter up.

Connecting Communities: The second event under this scheme will be held in the Deepdene/Quantock Gardens area on 12th June. The idea of the project is to go into particular communities to make sure residents there feel they are being listened to and taken notice of. The first event involved questionnaires etc to find out what their concerns in the area are. The second event is to show residents what is being done about them. This is a national scheme funded by the previous government.