

Report from county councillor Jeremy Birch February 2011

Mount Pleasant Road

Resurfacing work will take place between 6th and 13th March

George Street

The street will be closed between 21st February and 14th March for the delayed sewer repairs.

Old Town highway proposals

The proposals to bring in the 20mph through the Old Town (except the Bourne), to make the top of High Street two-way and to make the top end of Barley Lane 30mph should all be advertised in one-traffic order imminently. There is a period for objections (and hopefully there will be none) with then implementation in the next few months.

County Council budget

The chair of the Local Government Association (the leading councillor in the country and herself a Tory) describes the government cuts to local government as the “the worst settlement in living history.” East Sussex County Council set its budget on 8th February and it means £37 million worth of cuts for next year and the loss of 200 council posts.

There are cuts to pavement maintenance, special educational needs, respite for disabled children, the library bookfund etc. The youth service will in essence become a targeted service for 900 young people and will cease to provide a service for everyone except in the most deprived areas (which will include parts of Hastings) and the more remote rural areas. Eight as yet unidentified children’s centres will close – some may well be in Hastings.

The money for a new Hastings library remains in the capital programme but the County Council has not been able to identify a site – so we will have to wait and see what happens.

I and the other Labour councillors did not vote for these proposals and unsuccessfully put forward an alternative which attempted to mitigate the impact of the cuts