

## **ESCC Jeremy Birch Report April 2011**

### **Hastings Academy**

Planning permission has now been granted for the construction of the Hastings Academy on the Hillcrest school site. Construction will start this Summer,

The Academy as an institution will of course open from September this year with Theresa Phillips appointed as Principal Designate (Pip Gasson is now acting as headteacher of Hillcrest till the end of the school year). However, still no appointment has been made to the post of chief executive over the two (Hastings and St Leonards) federated academies and we still await the announcement of the board that will oversee them both.

### **Old Town 20mph**

The traffic order to implement the 20mph goes in front of Hastings borough Council's Traffic Management Committee on 14<sup>th</sup> April. There have been a couple objections although not from anyone in the Old Town. Assuming approval is given then the scheme would be introduced by the Summer.

### **Sussex Arms**

I presented a petition to the County Council along with the chair of the Clive Vale Residents' Association who is the lead petitioner. It is calling for a yellow box rather than just a Keep Clear at the mouth of Mount Road as its junction with Old London Road. We will be told when the petition will be formally considered.

### **Excellence Cluster**

The East Sussex Schools Forum has decided that the £1.4m dedicated to Hastings for the running of the Excellence Cluster should be redistributed to every school in the county. The Cluster provides vital additional support like one to one work with individual children, family support and work with children with behavioural problems all in the town with the highest educational and social needs in East Sussex. All this and the very continuation of the Cluster are at risk as a result of this unacceptable decision. I challenged this in the strongest terms at the recent County Council meeting.

### **County Council Cuts**

We are still awaiting the bad news about which children's' centres will close and which areas will be deprived of their youth services as a result of the council's cuts. We know that a significant number of children's centres are to close and that most county-funded youth facilities open to any young person will be closed in favour of targeted youth work aimed at the 850 most vulnerable youngsters across East Sussex.

Cllr Jeremy Birch - 425585