

**Councillor Jeremy Birch**  
**East Sussex County Council**  
**June 2011 Report**

**Winding Street**

The carriageway in Winding Street will be resurfaced next week and so will be closed for a day.

**Old Town highway issues**

Work has started on the implementation of the 20mph zone in the Old Town and on making the top end of High Street two-way.

**Sussex Arms**

The residents' petition to install a yellow-box junction at the mouth of Mount Road at its junction with Old London Road will be heard at the County Council on 20<sup>th</sup> June. I am hopeful that the request will be approved.

**Priory Road**

There will be two-way temporary traffic lights on Priory Road for the next week due to the laying of new gas mains.

**Excellence Cluster**

At its meeting this week the County Council School's Forum confirmed its decision to take money earmarked for Hastings schools and redistribute it across the whole of the county. This will mean Hastings schools and Hastings youngsters will lose out and the local Excellence Cluster which up until now has received the money is directly at risk.

The Excellence Cluster was set up with government money dedicated to help with the extra needs of Hastings. It provides extra support to families and children in the town who are struggling with learning and it provides help with behaviour.

But back in March the Schools Forum agreed to redistribute the Excellence Cluster's money to all schools in East Sussex based on the number of children and on a factor for deprivation.

After the outcry from Hastings that greeted their decision they agreed to put the matter on the agenda for their June meeting. Despite the case being made again that, while there may be social needs in all parts of the county the concentration of deprivation is in Hastings, they voted not to reconsider their previous decision.

They also voted not to change the formula for redistributing the Hastings money which would have given more weight to social needs rather than pupil numbers.

Local schools can still choose to use their portion of the old Cluster money to buy the sort of services it has up until now been providing but it will clearly be at a significantly lower level with the money being divided up between 200 East Sussex schools rather than 30 in Hastings.

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