

Jeremy Birch: East Sussex County Councillor Report July 2011

- **Old Town 20mph**

The 20mph signs are up around the Old Town but are covered over. The covers should come off and the 20mph zone become effective from 18th July

- **Highways works**

There will be temporary traffic lights on Priory Road due to gas main works from 21st to 27th July. And an advance warning – there will be resurfacing work on Dudley Road in late August.

- **Hastings Academy**

The academy opens in September with the closure of Hillcrest School. Work is underway on the construction of the new school buildings and with it the demolition of Hillcrest. The board of directors (school governors) for the joint academies – Hastings and St Leonards – has been appointed and comprises 19 people. There is a local advisory body for each academy of 11 people which includes a wider community involvement. There is still no chief executive in post to oversee the joint academies, but of course there is a principal for each one.

- **Excellence Cluster**

The Excellence Cluster provides vital additional educational support to youngsters in need and vital help to families. The cluster money dedicated to Hastings was distributed across all the schools in East Sussex by a decision of the County's Schools Forum. This puts a huge question mark over whether the Cluster can continue or certainly whether it can continue in its present form. Money is available to maintain the current staff and activities until December. A formal three-month consultation on redundancies will begin in September. The county council will fund a reduced number of staff till March and then it will be up to schools in Hastings where they wish to purchase additional help from. It could be from a trust that could emerge from the Cluster but clearly what they will be able to purchase won't be at a level schools have been able to enjoy from the Cluster itself because a significant part of the money that funded it has now gone outside of Hastings.

- **Health & Well-Being Board**

The County Council is setting up a shadow health and well-being board in line with the government's health bill. The full health and well-being board will in the future draw up the health strategy for East Sussex. The shadow board will include county councillors and two councillors to represent the five boroughs and districts in the county. It will start to function in September.

- **Elderly person's day care**

There was a substantial debate about the County Council closing the Moreton Centre in St Leonards and concentrating all day care provision in the Isabel Blackman Centre in the Old Town. The County Council has now agreed to consult on the proposal that the Charter Centre in Bexhill should close and that day opportunities are re-commissioned from the independent and voluntary sector. A further report will be made to Cabinet in October, 2011.