

Cllr Jeremy Birch

County Councillor Report October 2011-10-08

- Old Town 20mph – The 20 mph limit becomes live in Rock-a-Nore Road (which actually means uncovering the signs already in place) this month. It has been agreed that West Street (which by misfortune was left out of the scheme) will be included and appropriate sites for the signs are currently being sought.
- Rock-a-Nore Road – A meeting was held in the Summer to discuss parking options in Rock-a-Nore Road to help tackle congestion. Options have been drafted and will be presented to traders and residents on Rock-a-Nore to get their views.
- Sussex Arms Junction – Weather permitting the yellow box junction will be painted on to the highway at the Old London Road/Mount Road junction on the weekend of 12/13<sup>th</sup> November
- Hastings Parking – The County Council will make its decision on the management of parking controls in Hastings on 15<sup>th</sup> November. Since pay parking was introduced into the town in 1999 and enforcement taken from the police who previously employed traffic wardens, Hastings Borough Council has managed the scheme on behalf of the County which is legally the highways authority. This has meant Hastings has employed the staff, collected penalty charges, adjudicated appeals and been in a position to talk to local residents and traders to adjust parking controls where necessary. In Lewes and Eastbourne the County has handed the management contract to a private company - National Car Parks. Compared to Hastings many more penalty charge notices are cancelled because they were incorrectly handed out. Management of parking by Hastings Borough Council is of a higher quality, the question is whether the private contractor can offer to do it cheaper. They do of course pay lower wages.
- Blue badges – The County Council is currently consulting on raising the cost for providing blue badges for vehicles driven by or used by disabled people to £10. The government is allowing local highways authorities to increase the charge from £2 to £10 for badges which are valid for three years. The consultation closes on 26<sup>th</sup> October.

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