

County Council Report April 2012 01424 425585

All Saints Primary School, Githa Road - Ofsted inspectors visited on Wednesday 21st and Thursday 22nd March. We await the public report.

Winter highways work - With the relative mildness of the winter with only the one significant cold spell at the beginning of February, the gritters have only been out about half the number of times we would normally expect in a winter and only just over half the normal volume of salt has been used. The weather-created pothole situation too has been significantly better than the previous two winters with less than 5,000 pot-holes reported and repaired compared to circa 30,000 pot-holes in the previous two winters

Mount Road – There will be footway surfacing work on Mount Road for seven days starting 2nd April. This will involve the use of temporary two-way traffic lights. Pedestrians will be diverted to the opposite footpath while these works are being carried out. Vehicle access into properties for residents will be maintained, however, it may be limited at times due to the nature of the works. If anyone has concerns feel free to contact me or contact the Highways Contact Centre: 0345 60 80 193.

Old Town traffic management – I accompanied the chair of the Hastings Old Town Residents' Association to County Hall for the discussion of the petition I presented on their behalf concerning traffic management and pedestrian safety in the Old Town. It was agreed:

“(1) East Sussex County Council is committed to undertaking a full assessment of the traffic impacts of the Jerwood Gallery, which opened in March 2012, and the outcome of this will be used to help inform the need for any potential pedestrian improvements in the High Street; and
(2) East Sussex County Council will continue to work with the newly formed Old Town combined Residents and Traders Working Group to investigate and develop proposals to improve conditions for pedestrians in the High Street as appropriate.”

In addition it was reported that “in advance of the opening of the Jerwood development, ESCC has carried out a number of traffic surveys to obtain baseline data to inform the traffic assessment. These surveys included traffic surveys, turning counts at key junctions, number plate surveys and pedestrian surveys. The traffic surveys will be repeated in September 2012 once the vehicle and pedestrian movements associated with the Jerwood development have had a chance to settle. The traffic assessment will identify whether any further remedial measures are required in the Old Town to address any impacts of the traffic and pedestrian flows associated with the opening of the gallery. The output from this assessment will also be used to reassess the proposed footway improvements that were originally due to be implemented in January 2010 and identify whether any further measures to give greater priority to pedestrians using the High Street would be appropriate.”

Old Town 20mph – An electronic speed check was done at two separate locations on High Street 1st -13th March. This indicated the majority of drivers are adhering to the 20mph limit but a little more analysis is required to see whether any particular periods are problematical.

Rock-a-Nore Road – An experimental traffic order has been approved for a period of six months on what everyone accepts can be a very congested road, especially in the summer months. The new regulations restrict any bus or coach from driving into the street. There will also be a loading ban between 11am and 5pm which also means no disabled parking on double yellow lines. There will be additional designated parking bays for disabled people in the Rock-a-Nore car park. There will be two loading bays available between 9am and 6pm for 30 minutes only; one to the east near the museums and the other in the lay-by to the west end.

Child Poverty – At the most recent meeting of the full County Council I questioned why the County was so slow in fulfilling its statutory duty to produce a child poverty strategy. The needs assessment to inform the strategy was produced in June last year but the actual strategy is yet to emerge, When 18% of East Sussex children live in poverty (29.5% in Hastings) this did not seem good enough to me.

If you would prefer not to receive the county councillor's report please let me now; otherwise feel free to copy it on to others.