

Report from Cllr Jeremy Birch 7 August 2012

- Road closure: North Terrace will be closed from the junction with Ann Street to the junction with Priory Road for a week starting on 27th August. This is to allow for the gas and water connections to be laid to the new properties on North Terrace.
- Road closure (2): From 18th September for 3 days resurfacing will take place on the seafront heading out of the Old Town. During this time Denmark/Pelham Place will be under a lane closure for westbound traffic from Albert Road to West Street. The diversion for westbound traffic will be via Mount Pleasant Road, Queens Road and Albert Road.
- Frederick Road: The sunken section at the bottom of the road is due to be repaired on 20 to 21st August, and in the meantime a temporary sign will be erected to give vehicle users advance notice of the uneven road conditions.
- Traffic Order: A new traffic order has been advertised to introduce no waiting at any time opposite the entry that runs between 135 and 155 Bembrook Road.
- Day care: As many will remember the refurbishment of the Isobel Blackman Centre was accompanied by the closure of the other mainstream elderly person's day care centre in the borough – the Moreton Centre on Boscobel Road, St Leonards which combined day and residential care. The County Council has now agreed with St Matthews Healthcare, a private care provider, that they take long leasehold on the Moreton. St Matthews has already received planning consent to extend the property by a further 47 beds bringing the total number to 65, although their intention is to open in September with the original 18. The intention is then that building work on the two extensions will commence and is planned to take eleven months to complete. The County Council will have nomination rights to 30% of the beds within the Moreton on a first refusal basis at the county's agreed rates. No separate day-care facility is planned there.
- Schools: Two possible free schools have come forward one in Bexhill and one in Eastbourne. They would get state funding whether there is a need for additional school places or not. New academies are emerging with primaries in Eastbourne and Bexhill intending to re-open in September with an American educational institution, Mosaica (itself owned by a US private company), taking the lease on the buildings and acting as the sponsor. As the local education authority the county council has no decision-making role in the establishment of these academies or the free schools should they go ahead. The county council has agreed to try to develop a new partnership arrangement with all the schools in East Sussex – community schools, free schools, academies etc. – to offer assistance to them to improve when of course they increasingly are becoming more autonomous.