

September County Councillor's report September 2012
Cllr Jeremy Birch – 01424 425585

Old London Road: There are plans to install a pedestrian refuge at the mouth of Alfred Road at its junction with Old London Road funded from a by the developer of the old Clive Vale Hotel site which is to sheltered accommodation. Some residents have pressed for this over the years as the mouth of Alfred Road is quite wide and they see this as a contribution to pedestrian safety. Others are concerned about the loss of parking that this would entail. If the project is confirmed work could start this month.

Seafront: Resurfacing work will take place from the Carlisle pub junction (Albert Road) to the entrance to George Street on 18th-20th September and this will involve a lane closure.

Croft Road: Part of renovation project for St Clements Church requires the updating the toilet facilities which will require a connection by pipe from the Church to the existing foul sewer which is located in Croft road by an excavation some 5 metres deep requiring large machinery to excavate. Given the width of the carriageway at this location, this will necessitate a road closure for 2 / 3 weeks commencing on 12th November, from High Street to Collier Road with access arrangements for the resident living on the roads affected. A precedent was set in April 2012 when Southern Gas Networks closed Croft road for a repairs to their apparatus.

West Street: The proper incorporation of West Street in the Old Town 20mph zone will be completed soon. The 20 mph signs will go up but will be hooded for a short while until UKPN connect up the power.

GCSE results: This year's results for Hastings secondary schools – percentage of those entered achieving five A-C grades including in English and maths are:-

Hastings Academy - 46

St Leonards Academy - 51

Helenswood - 63.9

William Parker - 33.9

The two academies have maintained the progress made by the previous schools (Hillcrest and the Grove/Filsham Valley) over the last couple of years. William Parker unfortunately recorded the worst results in East Sussex and clearly attention is going to be focused on it. But there are real anxieties about the impact of the toughening up of the marking regime from January to June when students took their exams.

Health & Well Being: The East Sussex Health and Well-Being Board is responsible for producing this strategy which will oversee the county council's new public health responsibility but also act as a guide to the commissioning of health services by two GP-led clinical commissioning groups in East Sussex (we are covered by the Hastings and Rother CCG). The strategy is being developed in three stages. The first stage is the main priorities which

have been out for consultation ending on 14th September. After that a draft strategy and possibly an accompanying action plan will be developed and will go to the Health & Wellbeing Board on 9th October. There will be some consultation with partner organisations and then a final document will be agreed by the Health & Wellbeing Board on 11th December. I will want to be assured that the strategy adequately reflects the particular needs of the Hastings area, commits itself to tackling the inequalities in health which particularly affects the Hastings area and that it deals with the wider determinants of ill-health like poor housing, poverty etc.

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