

**October County Councillor's report**  
**Cllr Jeremy Birch – 01424 425585**

**Highways News:** From 5 November to 7 November there will be a temporary road closure on Courthouse Street (East). The diversion will be via The Bourne and All Saints Street and vice versa. The Croft Road closure will now take place starting around 12<sup>th</sup> November for three weeks. It will be from the junction of Hill Street extending about 30 metres up Croft Road. These works relate to sewer and gas connections required for the St Clemens Church refurbishment.

**County Council budget:**

15% cut in front line and 20% cut in back office costs. A draft budget will be adopted by the county cabinet before Xmas with the final decision being made on 12<sup>th</sup> February.

**All Saints Primary School:** Back in the early Summer the school was unfortunately deemed to be in special measures as the Ofsted inspection considered it to be "failing to give its pupils an acceptable standard of education." There is now an interim executive board which has replaced the governing body and it is chaired by the County Council's assistant director for schools. The school had a monitoring visit by inspectors last week who will send a formal letter hopefully recognising progress since the full Ofsted inspection.

**20 mph:** Now the Old Town 20mph has bedded I am interested to know if other residential areas would be keen to see such initiatives on their roads – perhaps Deepdene/Waterside, Farley Bank or Ashburnham/Edmund Road area. I hope residents will let me know.

**Ridge Fire Station:** I will be supporting a resolution submitted to the County Council by my Labour colleague Cllr Phil Scott calling on the council to back the retention of a full-time crewed fire station at the Ridge. Phil is the sole Labour representative on the East Sussex Fire and Rescue Service (made up of councillors from the County Council and from Brighton & Hove Council) and he was the only councillor to oppose the plans for the Ridge - to close it as a full-time fire station keeping it just as a retained fire station. The reduction in fire cover is obviously of concern to anyone living in or representing the East Hastings area. I was on the Ridge Fire Station 400-strong march on Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> October who all demonstrated the local community's determination to see the station maintained.

**Meet your county councillor:** I will be holding an advice surgery with my Old Hastings borough councillor colleagues on 19<sup>th</sup> October 4.00-6.00pm in All Saints Hall, All Saints Street.

If you would prefer not to receive the county councillor's reports please let me know; otherwise feel free to pass them on to others.