

Old Hastings & Tressell County Councillor Report

- **Bus cuts:** The County Council consultation on ending all supported bus services in Hastings concludes on 28th September. If implemented in full it would mean no 20.21, 22 (the main cross town routes) in the evenings or on Sundays and no 26 or 28 (key routes serving the Conquest hospital) on Sundays. In addition the dial-a-ride service would be cut back from a five-day a week service to a two-day. For the Old Hastings area the 20/20A (town centre-Old Town-Harold Road-Ore Village) would no longer run after 6.00pm Monday to Saturday and not on Sunday at all and the same for the 22/22A which serves Tressell area (town centre-Mount Pleasant Road-Frederick Road-Clifton road- Ore Village). I will be meeting Stagecoach to discuss their standpoint on all this along with my colleague Cllr John Hodges. The consultation can be accessed: <https://consultation.eastsussex.gov.uk/economy-transport-environment/organisationsbuschanges>. If you want to get out petitioning against these proposals then you can download a petition via: <http://www.sarahowen.org.uk/buscuts/>
- **Ofsted Report on County Council school improvement service:** Ofsted inspected the school improvement service (basically East Sussex as a local education authority) between 9-13th June. The Council's arrangements for supporting school improvement are judged by Ofsted to be ineffective. Ofsted only inspects local authorities when inspections of schools or other providers raise concerns about the effectiveness of a local authority's education functions. East Sussex is only the 10th authority to have a report published under this inspection framework. Ofsted found that "Over the past three years, a significantly lower-than-average proportion of pupils attained the expected levels in reading, writing and mathematics in Key Stages 1 and 2. Standards in English and mathematics are too low across both key stages. The gap in progress made by pupils known to be entitled to free school meals and their peers across all age groups is too wide." An action plan is now being prepared to tackle the weaknesses Ofsted have identified. They particularly criticised "the council's decision to reduce funding and take a 'hands-off' approach to challenging and supporting schools." The county has now agreed to the expenditure of an additional £870,000 to fund the action plan. The Ofsted report can be accessed: <http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/local-authorities/east-sussex>
- **All Saints Primary School:** All Saints was judged to have "serious weaknesses" by Ofsted inspectors some time ago. An Interim Executive Board was installed replacing the school governing body. It is now proposed that the school should become an academy under the umbrella of the new Diocese of Chichester Academy Trust. A consultation has started concluding on 6th October and it can be accessed at <http://www.allsaintsacademyconsultation.co.uk/>
- **Frederick Road petition:** Local residents are dissatisfied with the County Council traffic survey and the limited actions taken to address the problem. The petition supports a 20mph speed limit and a ban on HGVs. This road is not easily usable for pedestrians due to discontinuous pavements, so people have to cross the road numerous

times to travel along it, increasing the risk of accidents for families and young people as visibility is particularly poor in some areas. I will formally be presenting the petition to the County Council in October. An online petition is available for residents to sign also – you can find it at: <http://epetition.eastsussex.public-tv.com/core/community/petition/2821>

- **Isabel Blackman Centre:** The process to find an organisation to operate the centre is well underway. An advert was placed on the South East Shared Services e-Portal, and potential providers were able to download the pre-qualification documentation. The deadline for applicants to submit the documents was 22nd July. Six pre-qualifying questionnaires were returned and these are being evaluated. The County Council say that communication with users, carers and staff at is planned and will continue throughout the process. The intention is that new management arrangements should be in place during January to March of 2015.
- **Ore Library:** There is a planned closure of Ore Library on Tuesday 30th September and Wednesday 1st October. This is to enable building works to take place including cavity wall and loft insulation, new windows and doors, and internal redecoration. These works are in response to an energy survey of the building carried out in 2013.

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