

Old Hastings & Tressell County Councillor Report

- **Bus Cuts:** The December county council meeting opposed the council's plans to cutback subsidies for bus transport around East Sussex. The issue only appeared in front of the full council rather than just being determined by the cabinet thanks to a petition of 7,000 names organised by Labour's Hastings and Rye parliamentary candidate Sarah Owen. Under county council rules a petition of more than 5,000 names gives the right for the petition organiser to speak to the full council meeting and then for the council to consider what action to take in response. But then on 16th December, the county council cabinet voted unanimously to remove subsidies from a variety of bus services across the county including in the Hastings area. The cabinet members are all Conservative and none of them represent Hastings. However, many of the proposed cuts to routes have been dropped with the pressure from the Don't Stop Our Bus campaign. Stagecoach has ridden to the rescue of the County Council leadership by agreeing to take on the threatened Sunday and evening 20, 21 and 22 services and the 26 which goes to the Conquest from St Leonards. But as yet we don't know what the timetables will be and whether these services will operate at the current regularity. However, the reduction to service 28 which serves the Conquest from East Hastings will go ahead and it will no longer run on a Sunday.
- **County Council budget:** Over the life of the current budget plan (2013/14 to 2015/16) £60m of savings will have been delivered with £15m of them planned in 2015/16. The County Council is working on the basis of a further £70-90m of cuts over the next three-year planning period. I will be doing everything I can to protect the most vital services to local people.
- **Gritting:** With the onset of winter weather the gritters have been out on a number of occasions. Their progress can be tracked. To find out the gritting routes and other winter weather response details go to - <http://www.eastsussex.gov.uk/roadsandtransport/roads/maintenance/saltingandgritting/map/default.aspx>
- **High Street:** Along with my Old Town borough council colleagues – Cllrs Dawn Poole and John Hodges – I have met with county highway officers to discuss their conclusions about High Street pedestrian safety improvements. Their plans include improvements at the George St/High St junction and the installation of a pavement on the west side of High Street running up from the George St junction towards Swan Terrace. A public exhibition will be held in February/March in the Old Town and the works are pencilled in for the autumn.
- **Resident parking permits:** Paper parking permits will become a thing of the past. Residents will be able to apply online and means paper permits will no longer have to be displayed. Permit details will be linked to a central database which will appear on the handheld computers used by enforcement officers allowing permits to be checked. Online applications can be made at any time and applicants will receive an email when their permit has been approved with a link to a secure site

to make payment. Permits will only be valid once payment has been made. Applications can still be made in person at the parking shops or by post. Paper permits will be gradually replaced and permit holders will receive a reminder email or letter when their permit is due for renewal. Motorists must continue to display their paper permit until they have renewed it online. For more information visit www.myringgo.co.uk/eastsussex

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