

## **ESCC Report for Parish Councils    January 2021**

I want to wish everyone the best possible 2021. Let us hope that times will be better for all, and that at some future time, we will be on top of this pandemic. It has been a horrifying experience but I give congratulations and thanks to all our local people who have rallied to help others. The village “help support” teams have been amazing. The Hub established in Bexhill will continue to support the community.

We are now in tier 4 and the local NHS Trust (ESHT) is busy. The number of cases per week in East Sussex is now over 1000 (1019 in week leading up to 10<sup>th</sup> December) . Hastings has rocketed to 397 per 100,000 population, while Lewes has dropped to 75 per 100,000 population.

### **ESCC Help and Advice webpage    Coronavirus-help and support**

**The Covid-19 vaccination roll-out** has started in Sussex, being led by West Sussex. Hospital sites include Conquest, Brighton and Worthing. Each vaccination service is being supported by one, or several GP practices. Centres working so far include, Crawley, Horsham (Christ’s Hospital), and Horsham, Eastbourne, Angmering, Storrington, Uckfield, Haywards Heath, Pulborough, Brighton, Lewes ,and one in Bexhill, nothing for Battle and Rye and villages, although I have asked the question of our Director of Public Health (apparently something is starting at Etchingam village hall). These initial vaccinations are for hospital staff, key workers, care home staff and clients, and over 80 year olds. When you are contacted please respond immediately.

**School arrangements** : primary schools in Eastbourne, Lewes and Wealden are due to reopen as normal., Hastings and Rother will not open apart from children of key workers, and vulnerable children. Secondary:    years 11 and 13 to return on January 4<sup>th</sup>, years 7-10 and 12 to return on 18<sup>th</sup> January. All special school children to return to school.

**Our Chief Inspector of Police** is Sarah Godley. She is the policing commander for East Sussex and is responsible for local policing in Hastings and Rother districts. She leads the local Neighbourhood Policing Team, consisting of police officers and PCSOs. Sarah is also an accredited Tactical Firearms Commander and the force lead for Suicide Prevention. Inspector Jonathan Hartley has been replaced by Inspector Jay Mendis, our Neighbourhood Sargeants are Simon Barden and Brett Whitewith. PCs Paul Fielder, Jason Kemp, Dan Turk, Nadia Foy, and Ed Booth are our police constables, PC Charlotte Williams is our Neighbourhood Youth Officer, and our PCSOs are Emma Phillips and Daryl Holter.

Residents can benefit from the **Warm Home Check Service**. This is a free service, providing telephone advice on keeping homes warm and reducing energy costs. There is financial support available for heating and help with minor improvements to insulation and boiler repairs.

[www.eastsussex.gov.uk/keepwarm](http://www.eastsussex.gov.uk/keepwarm), text WARM to 81400 or call 03444 111 444

ESCC has been given the go-ahead by DEFRA and the MHCLG to transfer the Seven Sisters Country Park site to the South Downs National Park Authority.

UK Youth Parliament's (UKYP) 2021 campaign has chosen plastic pollution as their major topic. "Make your mark" is the largest youth consultation in Europe, where young people aged 11-18 across the UK are able to vote on issues that matter to them. James Jenkins from Eastbourne put forward and spoke on "Stop plastic pollution" at their conference last August. This topic won on the ballot. Congratulations James!!

An urgent Sussex operation on Christmas Eve at Newhaven port helped truckers get back to mainland Europe. Teams of volunteers from the NHS worked late into the night and early morning to help drivers get Covid tested to allow them to board ferries to Dieppe. The urgent testing operation was scrambled by **the Sussex Resilience Forum**, a consortium of emergency services, NHS, local authorities and partners working with Newhaven port and ferry operator DFDS.

**ESCC Highways Emergency Team** are available to deal with emergency calls throughout the year. Three members of staff are on call 365 days of the year monitoring emergency calls from the public and police between 4pm and 8am. To report an emergency on the roads call 0345 60 80 193 and ask for the emergency highways team.

A new kerbside collection service has been introduced in Hastings, Rother and Wealden. Unwanted **small electrical items** should be put in a plastic carrier bag and placed on top of the recycling bin on collection day. These or components of these will be reused or recycled (not batteries please!) Small electrical items are one of the fastest growing waste streams in the UK.

Improvements are being made to the way vulnerable women dealing with drug and alcohol dependency, homelessness, mental health issues, and domestic violence access support services. The changes follow an independent review by the East Sussex Safeguarding Adults Board, after a Safeguarding Adults Review into a woman's death. The full report and SAB response can be viewed at;

<https://www.eastsussexab.org.uk/documents/adult-c-sar-published-december-2020-2/>

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