

## ESCC Report for Parish Councils April 2021

The **Covid-19 vaccination service** at Etchingham village hall has vaccinated thousands of people since it opened on 20<sup>th</sup> January. It continues with a few adaptations when children returned to school on March 8<sup>th</sup>. Local GPs and Sussex Community NHS Trust are continuing to provide the service and now vaccination services from other sites are being discussed so as to extend the availability for local people.

**The pan-Sussex Community testing programme** offers free, rapid, lateral flow testing to anyone who is symptom-free but who has to work or Care. This includes those already vaccinated as they could still carry the virus. Adults in East Sussex who have to leave home for work or caring duties can now book a symptom-free Covid test. Anyone over the age of 18 can book a test at any participating pharmacy anywhere in Sussex, or at Moulscombe Leisure Centre in Brighton or at Hove Town Hall. One in three people with the virus experience no symptoms. This kind of testing plays an important role in preventing the spread of the virus. It shows whether an individual needs to self-isolate, and whether their contacts need to be traced. The faster we can identify those with the virus, the better chance there is to limit the spread. Anyone with symptoms, no matter how mild, should immediately self-isolate, and book a test [www.nhs.uk/coronavirus](http://www.nhs.uk/coronavirus) or by calling 119

More information at: [www.eastsussex.gov.uk/communitytesting](http://www.eastsussex.gov.uk/communitytesting)

**The six day road closure** in Hastings I mentioned in my last report has been postponed till April 6<sup>th</sup>. Battle Road in Hastings will be closed for 24 hours a day for 6 days to install temporary concrete protection blocks. A diversion route will be in place via Ashbrooke Road. Bus routes will also be affected.

A trial **School Streets Scheme** involving 6 schools will involve making more space outside school gates at pick up and drop off times. The scheme will restrict non-essential motor traffic to make more space for social distancing, walking and cycling during the school run. The 6 week trial will start on March 15<sup>th</sup> and finish on May 7<sup>th</sup> 2021. The scheme is being delivered by ESCC in partnership with Sustrans and is being funded through a grant of £1.8m which the council successfully secured from the second tranche of the Department of Transport's Emergency Active Travel Fund. The benefits of this scheme in terms of road safety and air quality will be obvious and will help to give families the space they need to get to school safely.

Residents are being asked to think twice before visiting **household waste sites** as we move out of lockdown. As the weather improves and people start spring cleaning, doing DIY projects, or tidying up the garden, the council is asking residents to consider whether they can safely store waste at home until they have a full car load, or dispose or recycle through kerbside collections rather than frequently visiting a household waste site. ESCC wants to avoid long queues which have been seen since the beginning of March, particularly on sunny days and on weekends. Traffic management has been put in place at Hastings, Maresfield and Mountfield, due to the volume of vehicles visiting. Social distancing is required at sites and staff are unable to assist with unloading or sorting. Verbal

abuse towards, and assaults on staff, is unacceptable under any circumstances. Residents visiting a household waste site should check the opening times and restrictions before planning their journey.

The PCC with Sussex Police has secured £402,000 of government funding to set up a new **High Harm Domestic Abuse (DA) Perpetrator Unit**. The police team (officers with training in detecting offenders) are now joined by a mental health worker from Brighton Housing Trust, a drugs and alcohol worker from the charity **Change, Grow, Live**, an independent Domestic Violence Adviser from **Worth Services** and specialist intervention probation officers from **Seetec Justice**. 40 of the highest harm DA perpetrators in Sussex will receive tailored intervention. A wider programme has also been launched for DA perpetrators who recognise their destructive behaviour and want to change. This aims to alter the behaviour of 100 more perpetrators and is delivered by the charity **Cranstoun**.

**Overnight work will close stretches of Etchingam Road, A265**, throughout April. Work will begin at the level crossing, with crews heading east towards Haremere Hall, to be completed by Sunday April 11th. On April 12<sup>th</sup> work will start east of Oaks Close and continue past the west entrance of Borders Lane, with over a mile of road to be resurfaced by April 29<sup>th</sup>. **Work will occur between 8pm and 6am.**

I have been lobbying for resurfacing on this road for some time !!

Work has started on a new link road which will connect to the recently completed Newhaven Port Access Road. ESCC states that this road which enables all HGV traffic to enter and leave the East Quay Port site will help drive regeneration and provide an economic boost to Newhaven and the county. Work on the project, to be finished by the end of June, will be carried out by Jackson Civils.

ESCC has successfully secured £478,423 from the government's £1bn **Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme** which supports the government's net zero and clean growth goals, and is part of the **Chancellor's Plan for Jobs 2020**. This grant allows public sector bodies to fund energy efficiency and heat decarbonisation measures. Part of the funding will enable the council's first pilot decarbonisation of heat project at Ninfield Primary School. This will involve replacing old oil boilers with more efficient air source heat pumps and battery storage, the installation of improved insulation throughout the school, and upgrading lighting to low energy LED lights.

For more information about what the council is doing to reduce carbon emissions visit

<https://eastsussex.gov.uk/environment/priorities/whatarewedoing/>

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