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Report to Parish Councils – May 2023

This report is written is for Parish Councils meeting in early May. It is for all 7 parishes in Northern Rother.

Some of the items here are from information circulated by ESCC but which may not have drawn the attention of parish councillors and others.

As there have been elections this report has been delayed and is rather short. Next month normal service will return!

Potholes and Roads

The new contractor (Balfour Beatty) took over on 1st May. There will be a few teething problems but we expect a much better service, particularly in the quality of repairs. I and all other county councillors are being invited to meet with them, to hear how they will be different and to discuss concerns. Early signs are that they really want to make a difference.

Perhaps the worst area due to the severity of potholes and the heavy traffic is Station Road in Robertsbridge. Having had multiple meetings with highways I sent a video of the issues and had an on-site meeting with a senior county official on 4th May, His comment was that he was 'shocked' and immediately arranged a survey, done that evening, then jetting and spray repairs (done on the evening of the 9th May) which looks good. Patching (partial proper resurfacing over the main pothole areas) will be done later this year.

There is still one area where there is a group of smaller potholes, but these were agreed to be repaired so I am chasing. The road also needs to be swept to remove hazardous loose

stone.

Overall we know we need to do more at county though funding is a challenge. I expect to have more news in the next few months.

Cases

Each month I will give updates for a sample of current cases across Northern Rother. I currently have about 12 which are being progressed. I now only show updates or new information on significant cases. Please look at previous reports for the full background.

Bus Services

There are problems such as delays and cancellations with several bus services, particularly those serving Robertsbridge Community Collage from Hastings and those going to Bexhill 6th Form College from this area. In some cases these are run commercially with no subsidy, in other cases ESCC provides subsidies. This can have various causes including driver shortage and road works. I am liaising with ESCC and others to see if and how this can be improved.

Some services have recently changed from one provider to another and I am hoping that this will improve things.

Carmen Bridge

This bridge on a bend near Beckley has seen many accidents though fortunately none as far as I am aware none causing death or serious injury. Signage has been improved and may have helped but accidents still occur. I am making a case for some active radar activated signs giving warning of the bend. Normally these are justified using injury/death statistics but I am trying to use arguments of saving repair costs to the bridge – the last one cost about £18k. This is unusual but makes financial sense apart from the risks to drivers.