

HIGHWAYS REPORT – JULY 2026

ROAD CONDITION – AND FINGERPOST NEWS

Just occasionally miracles do happen, and as you will have noticed, ES Highways has recently waved its wand over Brightling – we have been the fortunate recipients of a lavish programme of patching, junction marking and drain clearance/refurbishment. And there is more to come! There is shortly to be surface dressing along Cackle St, The Street, Long Reach and the B2096 from The Swan to Darwell Hole.

Of course, there had to be a sting in the tail – and no sooner had I typed the above than this landed via Lauren:

East Sussex Highways recognises the historic and community value of traditional fingerposts and, wherever possible, seeks to retain them provided they meet current road safety requirements. However, there are circumstances where a traditional fingerpost may need to be replaced with a passively safe sign, particularly if it has reached the end of its life, is structurally unsound, has been involved in a collision, or is located on an A or B class road where full replacement is required.

It is also important to note that, following the Council's recent budget-setting process, the wooden fingerpost match-funding budget has been removed as part of wider savings proposals. As a result, East Sussex County Council is no longer able to provide match funding for the maintenance of traditional directional signs (fingerposts), and the application process has now been closed.

To help preserve fingerposts, the Parish Council should continue to monitor their condition and notify us of any deterioration at an early stage. This allows us to assess the sign and advise on the available options before it reaches a condition where replacement becomes necessary.

This is a real blow. I will send the notification out to those who have kindly offered to ‘adopt’ a fingerpost and will also place something in the Messenger. Thank goodness we replaced the Twelve Oaks post when we did.

VERGE CUTTING

ES Highways’ grass cutting contractors again got in a muddle this year. The ‘rural’ verges were supposed to have an early visibility cut, but as many in the village have commented on, the cut was far more severe. Meanwhile, those verges still marked on the map as ‘urban’ remain uncut. As you will remember, BPC had previously requested that *all* verges in Brightling, other than those classed as ‘wildlife’ verges should be designated as ‘rural’. Not only that, but for some reason, rural verges are marked on the ES map in purple, whereas the urban verges are marked in green. Little wonder that the tractor drivers get confused. Correspondence between Lauren and the Contracts Manager is ongoing.

DRAIN COVER – LONG REACH

The new drain cover, for those interested, is a B125, designed to withstand loads only up to 12.75 tonnes. ES Highways say this should be adequate, however, if it is damaged again, they say a greater load bearing capacity could be considered.

