



Cllr Paul Redstone
Email: Cllr.Paul.Redstone@eastsussex.gov.uk
Phone: 07510 074267
Address: Edgingtons
Cripps Corner
Robertsbridge TN32 5RY

29 April 2024

Report to Parish Councils – May 2024

This report is written is for Parish Councils meeting in May.

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

Potholes and Highway Maintenance

There are signs of overall progress in most areas in the division, and of course across the county, but overall we are limited by the funds available. I have communicated with highways and in many cases inspected areas of roads where there are issues, as well as meeting with local residents in a few cases.

As always, I ask residents to raise issues online at

<https://live.eastsussexhighways.com/report-problem>

but also to send me the case number and a brief description. I can take an interest, which may help, but also can track it. Later this year Highways plan to make a portal available for councillors to be able to see the status of any repair at a glance. I speak regularly with the two highways stewards who cover areas in Northern Rother division.

Drainage is a particular challenge, particularly given the recent rainfall which is way above average. This is often an underlying cause of highways issues.

We continue to seek additional funds for council activities, particularly from government grants, which can potentially free up more funds for highways.

I and ESCC officials continue to monitor the quality of repairs, though photographic or in some cases visual inspection. Where this is not up to standard it is remedied at no cost to ESCC.

Highway Safety

Highway Safety is the responsibility of a different department to highways and run by ESCC staff rather than Balfour Beatty who are our highways primary contractor.

I do get requests to look at safety issues, for example at Carmen Bridge near Beckley and on the bends in the Bodiam Road from Staplecross to Bodiam. As with Highways we are very limited on what we can do due to finance and some other criteria. For example, flashing warning signs cannot be over-deployed as this diminishes their impact.

Situations where there have been deaths (happily very rare) or serious injury (still rare) do tend to get priority. This is partly because data on such accidents is properly gathered but data on accidents which do not have KSI is not systematically collected as there is no requirement to report these.

Nevertheless, I have been able to get some actions and continue to push for more.

Careers for Looked After Children Leaving Care

A new informal committee with three councillors, including myself, has been set up by Children's Services to help provide career advice and work experience for children/young adults leaving care.

Some children may have special needs, though normally not ones which preclude them from working, but most come from difficult or challenging backgrounds and have benefitted from our excellent child services.

If you know of any employers who might be able to offer work experience or employment, please let me know and I will put them in touch with the appropriate officials.

I will have more information on this in future reports.