

Cllr Paul Redstone  
Email: [Cllr.Paul.Redstone@eastsussex.gov.uk](mailto:Cllr.Paul.Redstone@eastsussex.gov.uk)  
Phone: 07510 074267

2<sup>nd</sup> April 2025

## Report to Parish Councils – April 2025

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

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.

Last week I separately sent to clerks a four-page document intended for use in Annual Parish Meetings. This actually has updates on the key current issues including the budget challenges of East Sussex County Council, Devolution/Local Government Reform and Highways, so I do not repeat that here.

### **Newenden Bridge/ Bodiam Bridge/ Hawkhurst Crossroads**

I still have no date for the closure of Newenden Bridge which will cause major challenges for several parishes in the Division, not only those with residents that use the bridge but also those in others such as Bodiam/Ewhurst where there is valid concern that Bodiam bridge will be used by trucks in excess of the 18-ton limit. I liaise with East Sussex Highways (who in turn are in close communication with Kent Highways) and the Kent County Councillor for the area, as well as Newenden Parish Council.

I have been pushing for:

- 24 hour a day/7 day working to reduce the closure time
- Advanced signs to help trucks avoid Bodiam bridge including on the A21
- Camera enforcement at Bodiam bridge
- Coordination to ensure that closure is not at the same time as work on Hawkhurst Crossroads (which looks to be fine)

### **Grants for Parishes**

This section will occur each month and is a list of possible sources of funding for parish level projects. I have had a number of enquiries as to whether any of these could help with areas such as allotments. Sadly the answer is no – these are all intended for community/parish council projects.

- Dungeness Power Stations. I sit on the Site Stakeholder Group which liaises between the massive project to decommission these and the local community. They often provide grants for local activities including some in East Sussex even though the power stations are in Kent. For example, this Christmas Rye food bank is their designated charity.
- Veolia Green and Food Waste Composting Facility. As a member of Place Scrutiny I recently visited this site near Lewes. Their 'output' is compost and they deliver 'one tonne bags' at no cost to local community gardens and similar. I put Peasmarsh parish council in contact with them and they have already received two bags for the community gardens.
- Southeast Water do make grants to local communities, for example to support playgrounds
- Gatwick Airport are keen on funding local projects, at least partly driven by their desire to open a second runway which would have some impact on East Sussex, though less in the Eastern part

If you have a project which might benefit, please let me know and I will put you in contact and try to help get it approved.

Please let me know if you come across any new sources of funding and I will add them to the list.