

Reports from Cllr Standley and Cllr Dixon for Hadlow Down PC meeting 6th December 2022

1. Update from Cllr Standley to Hadlow Down Parish Council December 2022

Ukraine Guests

Thank-you payments to hosts of Ukrainian guests to be increased

East Sussex County Council has made the decision to increase the monthly payments payable to hosts of Ukrainian guests to thank them for their continued kindness and generosity. The decision also reflects the increased costs hosts are facing during the current economic crisis.

From October 2022 to March 2023, the payments will increase by £150 per host per month. The increase will be applied across the county and will be payable to both new and existing hosts. In addition to these top-up payments, the Council has also agreed to a one-off incentive payment of £1000 for hosts who accommodate guests for 12 consecutive months and who are willing to extend their placements beyond the 12-month mark.

More information about this story can be found on the website

Event showcases approaches to ageing well

The Innovations in Healthy Ageing Conference took place at the De La Warr Pavilion on 19 October. The event brought together learning and new developments from the Healthy Aging through Innovation in Rural Europe (HAIRE) Project to promote local approaches to ageing well.

Programme of festive events to run in libraries

A special programme of Christmas events will run in libraries across the county this month. The events will include Christmas craft sessions for adults and children, festive author led storytelling events, Rhymetime and Storytelling sessions, and an orchestral production of 'A Christmas Carol'.

Children's Christmas crafting sessions will be taking place in Battle, Crowborough, Eastbourne, Hampden Park, Hastings, Hollington, Lewes and Rye libraries throughout December, whilst bauble crafting drop-in sessions will be held in all East Sussex libraries from 12 December.

All the Christmas events in East Sussex libraries are free but booking may be required. For more information and to book, please visit eastsussex.gov.uk/Christmas.

Support with the cost of living available for East Sussex residents:

A variety of support and guides are available to residents across the county, including a Warm Home Check service and financial advice.

Children's Services

New strategy launched to help children reach their potential.

A new Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) strategy to enable young people to reach their full potential in every area of life has been launched. The strategy will be used to inform the work of everyone with children and young people with SEND across the county, providing them with the opportunities and support they need to achieve their ambitions and prepare for adult life.

Families, schools, and other professionals from services in areas such as social care and health took part in a ten-month consultation process to develop the strategy, including extensive work with children and

young people to identify areas for improvement. An East Sussex SEND Strategy Governance Board has been established which will oversee SEND work across the county and monitor the delivery of the strategy. The SEND Strategy 2022-2025 is available online here.

A short video about the strategy can be viewed online

East Sussex residents encouraged to discover their past at The Keep

Residents across the county are being encouraged to find out more about their family history with free access to over six million digitised Sussex parish records. The digitised documents span 457 years of Sussex history and include details of baptisms, confirmations and marriages alongside birth and death records. These records are now available to search online via Ancestry, the world's largest genealogy website, with free access available at The Keep.

The entire Sussex Parish Registers collection has been brought online through an exclusive collaboration between the East Sussex and Brighton and Hove Record Office, the West Sussex Record Office and Ancestry. The records were digitised over the course of the pandemic whilst visitor access to The Keep was limited.

Those interested in researching their family background but are unsure where to begin may benefit from attending one of the centre's visitor induction sessions, whilst 'Welcome Wednesdays' offer an opportunity for first-time visitors to learn more about The Keep and the specifics of research conducted at the centre.

2. Update from Cllr Dixon to Hadlow Down Parish Council December 2022

Planning issues

The application for 4 Grange cottages has been refused.

The driveway on Stonehurst Lane was approved on the facts available at the time. If there were any material misstatements, then it might be possible to challenge it, but it would need very clear evidence before it could be even considered by legal services for taking action. They have no evidence at present. However, the current permissions on the property would make it difficult to sell and the owners have been advised to seek a full planning permission to regularise the situation.

Local Plan

The present aim is to publish a draft plan early in the new year with the intention of going out to consultation before purdah begins in April. However more details will be given at the Parish Cluster meeting on 13th December.

Ukrainian Guests

Wealden has welcomed a great number of Ukrainian families to the district, more than most across the country! As time has gone on some of these arrangements have come to an end and have required rematching to avoid families becoming homeless. This is expected to become an increasing concern so we will need to find more hosts and properties which are available for private letting. Given that there is a requirement to accommodate refugees as well this is causing some considerable work for our housing services team.

Waste

I am pleased to report that refuse collection has now returned to the pre strike levels of services which is a very good performance on missed bins but the team are determined to improve this still further bringing us to the best service levels ever for Wealden. Recycling rates, while the highest in East Sussex, fell during the pandemic and the intention is to work on improving this again.