

## **County councillor report to Hadlow Down Parish Council July 2023**

### **Flexibus**

Flexibus service has been launched. This is a supplement to the existing bus services and in fact residents can't book a flexibus if they wish to travel on an existing bus route. Hadlow Down is in zone 4 but travel is permitted out of zone to Uckfield and Heathfield.

How to book etc is on the website. Adult fares are normally £3.50 single (capped at present under Govt scheme to £2) children £2.50 (£2.00)

Return adult £4.50 (4.00) child £3.00. Day pass Adult £5 Age 19-29 £3.75 and 5-18 £3.20. Senior bus pass can be used but restricted to hours of use as per normal buses.

Bookings by phone or Pingo App. Service operates 7am to 7pm

### **Highways**

As previously reported ESCC Cabinet has been looking at allocating extra resources to improve highway condition. Cabinet earlier this week approved a significant increase in funding of highway maintenance.

Agreed extra £5.6m revenue spend for 23/24 to bring total to £28.2m.

Agreed extra £5.1m for the capital programme.

Agreed to continue to lobby government for additional funding for highway maintenance.

### **Water Problem**

Not clear how much or all of Hadlow Down was affected by the outage. I was in contact with Nus Ghani whilst I was away and also aware ESCC convened a Sussex Resilience Forum as SEW seemed to be downplaying the effect of the outage. For the area yet again (last time in November) to be left with no supply for that length of time is unacceptable.

The issue was not about a shortage of water in the reservoirs but capacity of treated water into the holding tanks. It would appear to me that this is failure by SEW to invest sufficiently in extra capacity to take account of the highs of customer demands.

## **Council Monitoring**

The year end report showed 65% of the 54 targets met targets 4 rolled over and 15.

In terms of revenue the major overspend was in childrens services. This demand led service was £11.5m over budget. The deficit was covered by the revenue contingency and additional funding from Treasury Mgt. The latter surplus was helped by the rise in interest rates but the revenue budget in general was affected by inflationary pressures.

## **Funding Youth Centres**

The Council has obtained £8m in funding to provide a complete rebuild of the Heathfield Youth Centre and a full refurbishment of the Peacehaven Youth Centre The funding is time limited and requires the project to be completed by March 2025. The funding includes £400,000 in revenue to ensure continuity during the build phase.

## **Send Places**

New specialist facility approved for East Sussex primary schools I approved the establishment of two new specialist facilities for up to eight pupils at both Denton Community Primary School and Meridian Primary School respectively, with effect from 1 September 2023.

RWS June 2023