

County Councillor Report to Hadlow Down Parish Council November 2023

Adult Social Care

Robotic pets bring comfort to dementia sufferers.

A mechanical pet project to help people with early-stage dementia has been launched in East Sussex. The county council's RoboPets scheme aims to support clients living with the early stages of the condition by giving them a robotic cat or dog which acts as a positive distraction for them. The automated pets help with anxiety and ease the pressure felt by carers by providing companionship.

Since the project's launch in April, 50 companion pets have been homed across the county, with carers seeing positive health and wellbeing benefits for the people they care for. When the project ends in April 2024, the council will evaluate the benefits of the pilot scheme to establish whether the pets should be made more widely available to eligible residents across

Help for the vulnerable

The County Council approves use of funding to support vulnerable households. At a meeting on 15 September 2023, the Lead Member for Adult Social Care and Health agreed to approve the use of £2,000,568 from Round 4 of the Household Support Fund to provide support to pensioners, households with a disabled person and other vulnerable households between 1 October 2023 and 31 March 2024. The scheme provides a further opportunity to extend the support to vulnerable households within East Sussex who are experiencing financial challenges.

In addition, I had approved in September £1.896 in assistance to those families allocated FSM.

Highways

I have e-mailed County Clean with reminder that their vehicles should not go past the school but use Five Chimneys Lane.

I have re-reported the bollard broken at the A267/A272 junction and also the drainage issue raised by Ben

Reading Challenge

I have reported previously on the Childrens summer reading challenge which concluded in early September. Over 6000 children took part over the summer and completed the challenge of reading six books over the holiday period.

Apprentices' graduation ceremony

I am looking forward to opening the graduation ceremony later in this month. The event celebrates the success of apprenticeships which improve the skills in East Sussex. The need to improve the skill levels is vital if the county is to attract new employers with highly skilled jobs with matching higher salaries.

Bob