

County Councillor's report to Hadlow Down Aug 2025

SID on a A272/A259 Junction

I have reported, as an urgent item, that the sign is not operating owing to the overgrown vegetation and needs attention asap.

Consultation on new Speed limits.

Consultation runs to Friday 8th August on new limits on road from Buxted to Hadlow Down.

Five Chimneys Surface dressing.

Following comments on why Five Chimneys' was surfaced dressed I raised the question with Highways. The response was;_

Dear Councillor Standley

Your recent enquiry-22389801

Thank you for your email of 30 June 2025 regarding surface dressing works at Five Chimneys Lane. I apologise for the delay in responding to you.

Five Chimneys Lane has undergone extensive carriageway patching due to its many actionable defects. This prepared the road for surface dressing treatment which was completed on 19 June 2025.

We use surface dressing treatments to extend the lifespan of roads. By protecting the road from water damage and improving its surface, surface dressing can significantly prolong the time before major resurfacing is needed, saving on long-term maintenance costs. Further useful information can be found on our website -

What is Surface Dressing? | Surface Dressing Programme 2025 | live.eastsussexhighways.com.

The cost of the surface dressing along Five Chimneys Lane is estimated at £31,000.

As you note, the surface dressing contractor has its head office in Reading, but they are one of the few specialist contractors that offer this service across the UK, and they travel from county to county each year and have worked in East Sussex for many years.

Not completing both roads at the same time was due to a road space conflict as Hastingsford Lane was being used as a diversion route for utility company works.

Therefore, the works had to be replanned for a later date. No additional costs were borne by the County Council.

I hope the above information is helpful and for any further enquiries relating to

Highways, please feel free to contact your designated Stakeholder Liaison Team.

Skills East Sussex celebrated 10-year milestone.

Skills East Sussex celebrated a decade of working to improve local employment and skills levels and boost economic prosperity in East Sussex. Initially commissioned and funded by the county council for just two years, Skills East Sussex (SES) began in 2015 with the aim of raising prosperity, supporting vulnerable residents and ensuring that people of all ages had the skills they needed to succeed.

Over the past ten years, SES has worked collaboratively to:

- launch six industry sector task groups to align education with industry needs as well as an apprenticeship forum, an unemployment forum and an adult learning network.
- establish one of the UK's first Careers Hubs, now supporting over 40 primary schools as well as all secondary schools in the county with flagship initiatives like Open Doors, the ICAN Careers Fair, and the Steps to Success programme for vulnerable young people;
- help East Sussex businesses navigate apprenticeships and access ESCC's apprenticeship levy funding, through the TRANSFORM programme;
- develop a range of innovative adult learning and employment programmes including Moving on Up, Support into Work, and Multiply, helping adults find work and improve their skills; and
- collectively secure over £60million of additional funding since 2017 for the delivery of employment and skills initiatives and for capital infrastructure, including Plumpton College's AgriFood Centre and immersive learning environments at East Sussex College.

Children invited to grow their imagination with the Summer Reading Challenge

East Sussex libraries are inviting children aged four to 11 to read six books over the summer months as part of The Reading Agency's Story Garden Summer Reading Challenge 2025.

This year's theme of adventures in nature and the great outdoors aims to encourage children to uncover stories that celebrate the natural world and the power of imagination.

It is free for children to take part in the Summer Reading Challenge. Those taking part will receive special Story Garden stickers and other rewards. After reading six books they will earn a certificate and a medal.

Children can read any library book of their choice including fiction, non-fiction, picture books or books they share with parents and carers. eBooks, eAudiobooks and books on CD also count towards the challenge.

A series of nature themed free events will take place in East Sussex libraries throughout the summer as part of the celebrations for this year's Summer Reading Challenge. Activities

include Story Garden themed Scavenger Hunts and colouring activities as well as Craft with Nature sessions.

The Summer Reading Challenge started on 5 July and will end on 6 September in all East Sussex libraries.

Devolution and mayoral election plans move forward

Leaders have welcomed approval of their plans to collaborate in a single strategic authority.

for Sussex with a directly elected mayor.

The government has agreed to move forward with a Mayoral Combined County Authority (MCCA) and confirmed the first mayoral election is due to take place in May 2026. The new MCCA will bring together all upper tier local councils across Sussex to operate across the region while, while existing councils will continue to deliver day-to-day services.

The Devolution Bill (2025) outlines how significant powers, and funding will move down from central government to a local level, where decisions can be shaped with and by the people who live and work here. Including some

of the things that impact residents the most, including transport, housing, jobs, economic growth, and public safety.

The legal process for Sussex and Brighton to form a Mayoral Combined County Authority (MCCA) will now begin, this is known as a 'statutory instrument'.

All councils in Sussex and Brighton will now look in details at the powers proposed and understand the financial implications, before giving their formal consent through their decision-making processes.

Councils launch resident consultation on Brighton and Hove City Council Local Government reorganisation proposals.

Lewes District Council and East Sussex County Council have announced a joint public consultation inviting East Sussex residents to have their say on proposed boundary changes set out by Brighton and Hove City Council (BHCC).

The move comes amid BHCC's proposals to absorb areas within Lewes district as part of the government Local Government Reorganisation. The city council propose that Lewes district residents in Kingston, East Saltdean, Peacehaven, Telscombe, and Newhaven become residents of Brighton & Hove.

Local Government Reorganisation will see new unitary councils established across East and West Sussex, including Brighton & Hove. A unitary council provides all the public services that are currently split between district/borough councils and the county council.

Following the consultation, East Sussex authorities will submit a business case to the government in September based on the creation of one single unitary council, covering the existing East Sussex footprint.

The survey will be open until 5pm on Monday 25 August 2025.

Bob Aug 2025