

Report for ESCC Parishes August/September 2017

We are fortunate to receive an Arts Council England grant of £11.8m over 4 years across the county. This will be shared between 7 venues and projects: Glyndebourne will receive £6.5m, for education and outreach, De La Warr Pavilion £2.03m, Towner Art Gallery in Eastbourne £1.4m, Hastings-based Project Arts Works £600,000, Jerwood Gallery £400,000, Home Live Art in Hastings £300,000 to promote live art, Applause Rural Touring £580,000- helps to bring professional shows to community venues; this will all support our cultural experience.

Roads - surface dressing work has been done across the summer, and a grass cutting programme for cycle way has been completed.

Cabinet has agreed a policy which sets out how the CC will manage 2000 miles of footpaths and bridleways and byways, and 10 countryside sites in future. There may be specialist organisations which can manage countryside sites better than ESCC. eg National Trust, Sussex Wildlife Trust, South Downs National Park Authority. This is being discussed at present. No decisions have been made.

Battle Library is now open after a major revamp. The 9 week modernisation scheme has seen the library in Market Square completely redecorated and fitted with new carpets, lighting, furniture, and shelving, as well as self service facilities, a new display area, and a place for community events. New desks provide laptop and USP plug-in spots. The Children's Library has also been improved.

A new campaign has been launched in East Sussex highlighting how easy it is for young men to be tested for Chlamydia. This is the UK's most common sexually transmitted infection and can result in infertility in young men and young women. The ES Public Health Campaign--"The hardest thing about the Chlamydia test? how to spell it" is being promoted through social media and a poster campaign. Chlamydia is hard to spot but easy to treat with a single dose of antibiotic free of charge. There is an online testing option. 1 in 12 people who test for chlamydia have the infection.

County Cllr Ms Angharad Davies.