

Report for East Sussex Northern Rother Parish Councils January 2018

May I wish you all a very happy and successful new year.

East Sussex Healthcare NHS Trust is urging local people to steer clear of A&E unless they have a serious or life threatening problem. NHS 111 should be consulted for advice, and HSCC (Health and Social Care Connect) is available 365 days per year 8am to 10 pm 0300 678 0010

ESBT (East Sussex Better Together) our initiative to bring health and social care together, has moved on apace. We have nearly completed the testbed year of the CCGs, ESCC and ESHT with Sussex Partnership Mental Health Trust working as an alliance. The Alliance recently won the “Improved partnerships between health and local government” category at the HSJ Awards 2017.

In a bid to encourage more people to become foster carers ESCC has launched revamped webpages making it easier to find information. There are currently 450 children in foster care in East Sussex but a shortage of carers means 50 children are waiting for a placement at any one time. If you think you can offer a home for a child please consult the website and the ASC department.

A new contract securing the future of the Newhaven/Dieppe Ferry service was secured by Transmarche Ferries. The owners (SMPAT) awarded the 5 year contract to current operator DFDS starting 1st January 2018. This was welcomed as a great deal of investment has gone in to the area with ESCC committing investment of £13m in the development of the Newhaven Port Access Road. This funding, with a further £10m awarded from the Coast 2 Capital Local Enterprise Partnership, will improve access to the ferry service and open up land for employment space-creating up to 620 jobs.

The ES Highways Customer Centre won “gold” in the best small customer service team award at the European Contact Centre and Customer Service Awards. A new way of working has slashed average call response times from 90 to 9 seconds.

ESCC is calling for volunteers to help vulnerable people live independently. Support with Confidence, run by ESCC, vets and approves personal assistants and other care providers for quality, training and safety. Anyone interested in becoming an accredited personal assistant should call 01323 463440 or email supportwithconfidence@eastsussex.gov.uk

Our MP, Huw Merriman, put a question to Sajid Javid, Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, in the House of Commons on December 21st, suggesting that he should recognise the unique challenges faced by ESCC in having one of the highest proportion of elderly residents in the country. These comments came in the same week as ESCC’s petition “Stand up for East Sussex” signed by almost 6000 people calling for a fairer deal for the county. The MP stated that ESCC had made £110m in budget savings, did not have a great “business rate yield” and was a place where many people wanted to retire. He asked for consideration of the impact this was having on the county. Sajid Javid replied that a relevant green paper would be forthcoming in the summer.

Angharad Davies

East Sussex County Councillor Northern Rother

January 2018