**Report for Parish Councils April/May 2017**

Time is running out to register to vote. Next month's county council elections are on May 4th 2017. Anyone not registered to vote has until April 13th to register. Residents can check they have registered at www.gov.uk/register-to-vote.

Businesses in East Sussex are being given £31 million funding boost thanks to new council funding. ESCC has allocated this extra cash to help new companies set up, or existing firms to expand over the next 3 years. Figures for 2015 -the most recent period for which figures are available-show the economy in East Sussex grew by 5.2% compared to the national average of 2.9% with 2,790 new business start-ups. Call 01273 481476 for more information

The library at Battle is undergoing a major revamp. It will be redecorated and get new carpets, lights, furniture, and shelving, as well as self-service facilities , a new display area, and space for community events. It will move to temporary premises while this is done. A temporary library service will be provided at RDC's Community Help Point, situated behind the library in Battle, in Market Square. The refurbished library is due to open towards the end of June. Call 0345 6080195 for more information.

A farmer from Sussex will have to pay out £20,000 after risking the spread of a notifiable disease by moving cattle. David Butler (trading as F J Butler& Sons) from Heaven Farm, Danehill, between Uckfield and Haywards Heath, pleaded guilty to an additional charge of animal neglect through inadequate feeding. He admitted 4 counts of unlicensed movement of cattle between holdings along the East/West Sussex border after animals in his herd were found to be at risk of carrying bovine tuberculosis. He also admitted to failing to isolate at risk animals as required by notices issued by the government's Animal and Plant Health Agency, and failing to cleanse and disinfect his dairy farm in order to prevent the spread of disease.

Angharad Davies East Sussex County Councillor