



Cllr Paul Redstone
Email: Cllr.Paul.Redstone@eastsussex.gov.uk
Phone: 07510 074267
Address: Edgingtons
Cripps Corner
Robertsbridge TN32 5RY

1st July 2024

Report to Parish Councils – July 2024

This report is written is for Parish Councils meeting in July.

Some of the items here are from information circulated by ESCC but which may not have been drawn to the attention of parish councillors and others.

Due to my heavy involvement in the general election, this report is short. I have however been keeping up with council work and associated cases.

Council Budgets

I have previously reported that in this financial year until April 2025 we have a balanced budget but using £14M of reserves. In the Cabinet meeting of 25th June, the papers for which are available here:

<https://democracy.eastsussex.gov.uk/ieListMeetings.aspx?Committeeld=133>

under the agenda items Reconciling Policy, Performance and Resources – State of the County you will see forecasts showing serious and unsustainable deficits in subsequent years.

We are a well-run county, confirmed in an independent peer review last year, but do not receive enough funds from central government nor can we raise more from our hard-pressed residents. We, along with other councils and across all parties, have lobbied the government for more central funding and will continue to do so after the election.

Almost all of our costs are for statutory 'core services' which we are required to provide. Some others, notably highways maintenance, are not core but our residents understandably want us

to spend a lot more on them. In the cabinet meeting £1M was allocated this year to help but this will only make a small difference.

Measles cases are on the rise

There are cases of measles in the South East and rates continue to rise all over Europe.

With summer fast approaching, people will be socialising and travelling more, meaning measles could spread quickly. It does spread fast amongst people who aren't vaccinated, and it can be very dangerous.

Measles symptoms to look out for:

- high temperature
- sore, red, watery eyes
- coughing
- sneezing
- a runny or blocked nose
- a rash, which usually appears after the initial symptoms.

The rash might be raised, and join to form patches, but is not normally itchy. The rash looks brown or red on white skin, but may be harder to see on brown or black skin.

Some people get small white spots in their mouth around the same time as the rash.

If you suspect measles, call your GP or NHS 111, do not attend the surgery or A&E without calling first.

Get vaccinated!

The best way to protect yourself is with two doses of the very safe and effective MMR vaccine. We encourage everyone to check that they and their family members have had both doses, usually given at 1 year and 3 years old. Lots of children missed these because of the Covid pandemic or for other reasons.

Luckily, it's never too late to catch up and you're never too old to get vaccinated!

Contact your GP to book a catch-up jab.