

## MINUTES

### HERSTMONCEUX PARISH COUNCIL Herstmonceux Annual Parish Meeting Monday 18th March 2019

**Councillors in attendance:** Jenny Alder; Jo Angear; Ketill Game; Emma Goodsell; Mick Goodsell; Heather Kenward; Graham Lee; Bryan Naish; Stephen Nash; Ian Stewart - **Ch**; Catherine Stirling-Reed

**ESCC Cllr** Bill Bentley; Laurence Keeley; **WDC Cllr** Andy Long.

Apologies from Cllr Emma Goodsell

**Clerk in attendance** – Clare Harrison

**Responsible Finance Officer (RFO) in attendance** - Karen Crowhurst

**Members of the Public** – 45

**Local Organisation representatives** – as below

**Information areas were presented by:**

Herstmonceux Cricket Club

Windmill Hill Windmill Trust

Herstmonceux Free church

Vitality Villages

Herstmonceux Transport Action Group

St Wilfrids Hospice

Herstmonceux Local History Group

Herstmonceux Community Land Trust

Herstmonceux Womens' Institute

Herstmonceux Footpaths and Walking Group

**The Chair of the Parish Council, Councillor Mr I Stewart officially opened the meeting at 8.02pm and extended a warm welcome to all who were in attendance.**

**An explanation of the upcoming Purdah period was outlined and general guidance issued verbally. Attending community groups were invited to speak of their organisations work at Agenda Item 6.**

#### **1. Minutes of previous Annual Parish Meeting (March 2017)**

The minutes of the meeting held on 19th March 2018, were proposed for approval.

All in favour.

Minutes approved and filed to the website.

#### **2. Chairman's Annual Report**

Welcome and thank you for coming to the Annual Herstmonceux Parish meeting.

The Parish is changing! Change is inevitable and at times, necessary. We may not like the idea of some of the changes but they are happening. Our parish has experienced this before in the Parish when Fiennes Road, Queens Road, James Avenue and surrounding estates arrived and in Windmill Hill when Middle Way

and surrounding roads developed. Cowbeech has been largely untouched and now as a Conservation Area will hopefully be more protected!

We must work together to build and strengthen our community. When dealing with the WW1 commemoration and reading about the war and its effects I was struck by how often mention was made of the way that communities worked together to support bereaved and others in their area. We must follow their example!

We have a number of new shops and businesses in the Parish. We must all support these enterprises and all the existing ones. If they disappear it will be to the detriment of the Parish and the parishioners as there are now few parking spaces left in Hailsham!!!

We now have a Neighbourhood Plan! This appears later on the Agenda but is worthy of mention here so that you can raise your questions on the Plan at that stage in the meeting.

The Plan is in full force and effect for planning purposes but not quite fully adopted! Unfortunately, after the positive referendum in May 2018, a case concerning an electricity cable from a wind farm to be laid under a mussel bed in Ireland (short title of the case "People v The Wind") decided by the European Court of Justice has caused an extended delay in the full adoption of the Plan as it required us to have a more detailed Environmental Assessment. This is being undertaken by Wealden District Council and we understand that this will shortly be finalised, hopefully by the end of May, but I am pleased to report that on planning matters WDC are taking the Plan into consideration.

The Plan sets out a detailed plan for the future and in particular I am pleased to report that the Design Guide for new houses has had great effect. On both Lime Roughs and Lime Cross developments we have had extensive discussions with both developers and the detailed comments from our Building Development Working Party have been taken in to account by the developers and WDC. Our grateful thanks go to the non-councillor members of that committee (Robert Shepherd, Angela Von Barnholt and Bernice Burke) for their invaluable contribution. I can truthfully say that the developers were amazed by our knowledge and input and as a result the developments have been improved, not perfect but better than the developers' original plans!

We are working on other aspects of the implementation of the Plan which we believe will improve the community whether the access to Recreation Ground, revamping and re-opening of toilets adjacent to the village car park and in particular the sports and leisure facilities. We are in extensive discussions with the developers as to the play and recreational facilities. We have assisted the Herstmonceux Cricket Club in the renewal of its practice nets.

We will be receiving funds from the developers under the s106 agreements on both developments and will receive contributions from the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) on other new buildings .....but it is not a quick process!!! We will be consulting with the Community once the play and recreational plans are in more detail.

We are very keen on promoting community. Yes we already have a good community already whether the Cowbeech charity events, the Luncheon, WI, Cricket, Bowls and numerous other clubs but we need to strengthen and improve.

Last year we had a very successful commemoration of the end of WW1 and a series of Christmas events. Although the Parish Council were involved in the organisation of these events they were largely organised by WI and many parishioners. We hope to have a similar commemoration of the D Day landings in June 2019 and Christmas 2019.

We have a Speedwatch Group but this needs more members to be effective. If you are interested in joining the Group please contact the Clerk, who will tell you how to join! We have also updated the Parish Emergency Plan and are on the look-out for additional volunteers to help out should this ever need to be put into practice. If you would like to find out more about this, please complete one of the forms by the Emergency Plan board or speak to Cllr Graham Lee.

We need to build on these community events and initiatives and ensure that all new residents in the new developments are included and become involved in the community.

The Council is greatly concerned that the eight-page advice it gave the Electoral Commission in 2016 on the proposed revision to District Council boundaries was totally ignored. Our advice ended... "You will disenfranchise the electorate in parts of Parish if your proposals are implemented" and so it has turned out! Residents of Cowbeech and Stunts Green are represented by the Horam WDC Councillor, Gingers Green by Hellingly and so on.....this division is exacerbated by the decision by WDC Election department that to vote a resident of Cowbeech and Gingers Green as to go to Bodle Street to vote. Others in the Parish are affected. We have already taken this up with WDC, too late for the May elections but we have contacted WDC to discuss and try to repair the damage done by their decision on Polling Stations.

We intend to request whoever is elected in Horam, Hellingly as well as our "Herstmonceux and Pevensey Levels" councillor to attend our meetings to ensure that they fully understand the needs of our Parish community. Stunts Green and Gingers Green issues will have to be referred to Horam WDC Councillor.

May elections 2019 - Yes Parish Councillors are up for election too so ....please think if could you give your time (Parish Councillors do not get paid) to help develop the Parish, organise improvements and manage the day to day running of the Council. Why not become a Parish Councillor! Please see the board at the back of the hall which gives you more information as to what the role of a Councillor entails and please do speak to the Clerk who would be happy to give you further detail. These are exciting times .....there are substantial funds due to be paid under the s106 Agreements on the two major developments and we have to make sure that it is used for the benefit of the whole community of Herstmonceux Parish. To quote the old adage "If you do not use it you lose it!" We are not going to let this happen....are we!  
My heartfelt thanks go to our Parish Clerk Clare Harrison who whilst learning the job has kept us all in control, helped parishioners and looked after the needs of the Parish. She is an enormous asset to our community.

Similar thanks go to our Responsible Financial Officer Karen Crowhurst who has been in post a little over six months.

Many thanks to our recently RFO Simon Goacher who has helped Karen in to the RFO role and is still involved in our payroll work.

Our WDC and ESCC Councillors are also thanked for their efforts on our behalf, especially our East Sussex Councillor Bill Bentley. Bill has helped us on a number of issues and his help is much appreciated.

Finally our Parish Councillors...what can I say? Thank you to all for their hard work and for giving their time to their role. It would be inappropriate not to single out and thank Stephen Nash, who having moved out of the Parish will not be standing again, for his work on the Recreation Ground. To mention especially Heather Kenward and Jenny Alder for their work on Highways and Heather for her help in producing an excellent and informative newsletter, a vast improvement on the old newsletters!

Finally, I repeat again that all your contributions to the Parish, whether as a Councillor or in the running of the Community are essential to maintaining and building a strong community. Thank you!

**18<sup>th</sup> March 2019**

**3. Financial Overview Report – Responsible Finance Officer (RFO)**

The RFO had shared the statement of the Final Accounts for the last financial year's audited accounts, for year ending 31 March 2018 with those attending. (The presented summary can be seen below).

Spend was kept within budget. £150k is earmarked for ongoing projects throughout the parish.

The RFO opened a question and answer session to the floor.

Questions that were forthcoming (precept / tax base) were all answered without the need for any further follow up from the RFO to the member of public.

Herstmonceux Parish Council  
Full Council (FCL)

**Summary of Receipts and Payments**  
**Summary - Cost Centres Only**

Cost Centre	Receipts			Payments			Net Position
	Estimated	Actual	Variance	Estimated	Actual	Variance	+/- Under/over spend
Administration Income	76,030.00		-76,030				-76,030
Administration General		43.28	43	8,840.00	6,800.97	2,039	2,082
Administration Grants				8,000.00	7,136.00	864	864
Administration Members				1,050.00	468.00	582	582
Administration Office		3,572.88	3,573	7,400.00	10,274.63	-2,875	698
Administration Parish							
Administration Reserves				1,770.00		1,770	1,770
Administration Special				3,650.00		3,650	3,650
Administration Employment		170.17	170	51,610.00	29,115.73	22,494	22,664
Allotment Administration				270.00	65.19	205	205
Allotment Expenditure				2,080.00	2,211.35	-131	-131
Allotment Income	1,320.00	863.75	-456				-456
Christmas Festivities					494.60	-495	-495
Communications Committee				1,750.00	155.00	1,595	1,595
Communications Committee							
Communications Special							
Ground Committee Special					4,840.05	-4,840	-4,840
Ground Committee				660.00		660	660
Ground Committee Lime Park				2,660.00	1,645.28	1,015	1,015
Ground Committee Village				740.00	440.00	300	300
Ground Income	620.00	3,085.00	2,465				2,465
Grounds Committee				8,150.00	9,777.01	-1,627	-1,627
Herstmonceux Village Hall				750.00	830.35	-80	-80
Herstmonceux Village Hall	1,660.00	1,239.36	-421				-421
Highways Committee				15,100.00	13,059.61	2,040	2,040
Highways Committee Income	2,150.00	2,597.27	447				447
Highways Committee Special				6,730.00		6,730	6,730
Income	1,723.88	79,541.87	77,818				77,818
Inland Revenue				6,000.00		6,000	6,000
Misc					425.00	-425	-425
Neighbourhood Plan				2,500.00	120.00	2,380	2,380
Neighbourhood Plan Income							
Pension Account				850.00	313.12	537	537
Public Conveniences				17,120.00	1,160.22	15,960	15,960
Reserves				154,489.66	3,769.84	150,720	150,720
Streetlighting Expenditure				7,940.00	6,560.12	1,380	1,380
Streetlighting Income							
Streetlighting Special Projects							
The Old Surgery Expenditure				670.00	581.25	89	89
The Old Surgery Income	9,300.00	7,250.00	-2,050				-2,050
The Old Surgery Special							
VAT		9,565.55	9,566				9,566
Village Hall Special Projects							
<b>NET TOTAL</b>	<b>92,803.88</b>	<b>107,929.13</b>	<b>15,125</b>	<b>310,779.66</b>	<b>100,243.32</b>	<b>210,536</b>	<b>225,662</b>
<b>V.A.T.</b>					<b>6,836.62</b>		
<b>GROSS TOTAL</b>		<b>107,929.13</b>			<b>107,079.94</b>		

#### 4. Herstmonceux Parish Neighbourhood Plan (HPNP)

An update was provided by Cllr Stephen Nash who advised that despite the wait for formal approval, the HPNP Policies are already being used in submitted comments and observations responses to planning applications.

Other HPNP policies are to be managed through business planning processes for the next 5 years. There were no questions from the floor.

## **5. Emergency Plan**

Cllr Lee introduced the revised Herstmonceux Parish Emergency Plan. Volunteering was encouraged.

## **6. Community Group Open Forum**

All Groups spoke of their work and successes in the local community.

*Herstmonceux Cricket Club* – refurbishment of equipment, developments and progression. Varied and growing membership. A letter of thanks to the Parish Council had been submitted. See Appendix 1.

*Herstmonceux Free Church* – information of history, want to be a vital part of the community. Information of activity delivery / fund raising / Youth Club.

*Windmill Hill Windmill Trust and Friends Of* – heritage site. Always need new volunteers, maintenance, guiding and general support.

*Vitality Villages* – community health and wellbeing. Activity information provided.

*Herstmonceux Transport Access Group (HTAG)* – public transport issues for the parish ie for hospital access. Community consultation has taken place. Transport study taking place, rural isolation needs for a shuttle bus. In discussion with Stage Coach for a Sunday service and special fares for those not qualifying for free bus travel. Volunteer car service proposal for the Parish. Drivers will be needed. Speak to Malcolm Bradshaw if you can help.

*St Wilfrids Hospice* – grateful for donations from the parish which are situated in the local businesses. Information about the various fund raising and volunteering input.

*Herstmonceux Local History Group* – Alan Brown, group being going since 2008, promotion of local history, publications and WW2 exhibition Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> April 2019. Will be the last exhibition but will continue producing the books. All proceeds to charities.

*Herstmonceux Community Land Trust* – public consultation affordable homes for rent of sale. 2017 CLT established supervised by the FSA. Close to finalising purchase of land at Strawberry Field, Public meeting 7.30 03.04.19 to find out more. Community project, assets cannot be sold, remain for the parish. Anyone in parish can become a shareholder for as little as £1.

*Herstmonceux WI* – celebrated centenary in 2018. 45 members of all ages. Information about various activities and community inclusion and events. Men can also now join the WI!

## **7. East Sussex County Councillors (ESCC) Report**

A written report was available from ESCC Councillor Bill Bentley. Please see Appendix 2

## **8. Wealden District County (WDC) Councillor Report**

Verbal report by WDC Councillor Andy Long. Information regarding WDC Business Plan monitoring was available to all.

## **9. Parishioners Open Forum on Parish Matters**

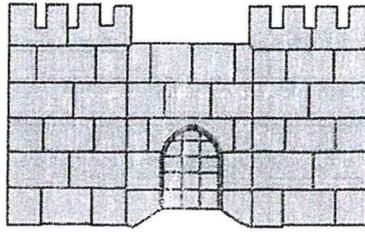
All raised points were answered satisfactorily. There were no further questions from the floor.

The Chair thanked everyone for attending and for their input. Those presenting information on community organisations, initiatives and displays were thanked for attending. All those present were invited to partake in refreshments and visit the information / stall holders present and to consider any requests for volunteering.

## **The meeting closed at 9.00pm**

Date of Next Annual Parish Meeting:  
Monday 16<sup>th</sup> March 2020; Herstmonceux Village Hall

## Appendix 1



## HERSTMONCEUX CRICKET CLUB

Herstmonceux Parish Council  
The Parish Office 4 The Old Forge  
Gardener Street  
Herstmonceux  
East Sussex  
BN27 4LG

18<sup>th</sup> February 2019

Dear Council,

The Cricket Club would like to formally acknowledge the support and assistance that the Parish Council has again provided over the last 12 months. The 2018 playing season has been a very successful for the Club and in part this success has been achieved with the support and backing of the Parish Council and the local community.

Through the playing season, the Club offered weekly training for around 60 junior players and offered competitive and recreational cricket for players aged 5 to 70yrs young.

The newly refurbished practise nets, the enthusiasm of our members and the fabulous summer weather helped to make 2018 a truly memorable season which was completed by being crowned Division Champions, the Second XI gaining their second consecutive promotion and the Club being awarded the ClubMark status by the ECB and Sports England. It was a whole Club effort to achieve all of this, support the teams and enable everyone wanting to enjoy cricket had an opportunity to play or support the Club in whatever way they felt they could.

The new playing season is very nearly with us and over the winter months, the Club's committee has continued to work hard. The interior of the pavilion has been given a fresh coat of paint, the new electronic scoreboard should be ready for use, we are making plans to run the ECB's All Stars programme again for 5-8 year olds and winter nets training has started. This year's Cricket World Cup in England hopefully will generate further interest in the sport with the Club is making plans to hold a festival of cricket in late June and to welcome new members.

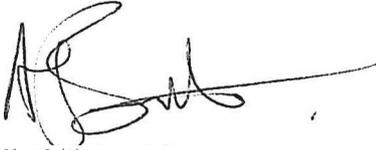
The considerable support from the Parish Council is recognised and Club extends a huge thank you to all the council for their help, encouragement and support with our endeavours, and we are very pleased to be

Herstmonceux Parish Council  
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able to share our plans and consult the Parish Council and the local community to ensure that we are offering a safe and wanted facility for all to •enjoy.

We very much look forward to continuing to work alongside the Parish Council to ensure that the Club's ethos of community spirit and inclusivity remains and village cricket continues to thrive in Herstmonceux.

With kind regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Alan Smith', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

L/1r Alan Smith

Chairman  
Herstmonceux Cricket Club

## Appendix 2



HERSTMONCEUX ANNUAL PARISH MEETING, 18 March 2019

### **East Sussex County Council Report**

As your County Councillor I provide regular reports to the Parish Council on ESCC activity and our work both within the Parish and my specific areas of responsibility as Lead Cabinet Member for Communities and Chair of SUSSEX Police and Crime Panel. Often these are projects that take a long time to complete, usually with diminishing resources and an expanding range of responsibilities.

What is often overlooked is that ESCC Spends  $\pm$ 375 Million and last year delivered a broad range of public services within 1% of the budget set.

I thought that it may be helpful to reflect upon some of the achievements of the County Council during the past year. These snippets are a selection of information extracted from the East Sussex Council Plan 2018/19 which sets out both the Councils achievements and its plans for the next 12 months.

In the past residents received a quarterly "Your County" magazine. However, many residents expressed the view that council tax should be spent on services not publications. So "YOUR County" ceased dropping through your letterbox last year.

All information and articles have moved to new webpages under a new online title "YourEastSussex" please visit <https://your.eastsussex.gov.uk> to find out more.

This year has seen a large increase in the Policing precept. The Police and Crime Commissioner has described how this money will be spent in a leaflet enclosed with your Council Tax Bill.

#### **50 extra police officers**

By March 2023, we will have 250 more police officers than we had in 2017.

#### **100 more PCSOs**

To increase visibility, boost public confidence and provide support for police investigations.

#### **Improving 101 & public contact**

The non-emergency 101 service is not good enough. Sussex Police has committed to improving contact with more call handlers and better technology.

#### **50 more investigators & specialists**

People said they were concerned that police are too busy to investigate some incidents. Sussex Police say extra investigators and digital specialists will help deal with the rise in complex and serious crimes.

As chair of the Sussex Police & Crime Panel I have campaigned hard to see these improvements and to see the return of more visible community policing, we will be watching and listening to residents as these improvements are delivered and most importantly gauging the pace of change that residents experience and see on their streets.

I would like to thank residents, businesses and the Parish Clerk and Councillors for their support, I am always pleased to hear from residents; if you have issues or concerns that I may be able to assist with, please get in touch.

CLlr *Bill Bentley*

Wealden East Division, 01323 847685

## Summary of County Council achievements 2018/19

This summary sets out some of the key achievements of East Sussex County Council in 2018/19 (up to February 2019) under the four strategic priorities of the Council. The Council Plan provides further detail of these priorities at: [www.eastsussex.gov.uk/docs/default-source/council-plan](http://www.eastsussex.gov.uk/docs/default-source/council-plan). The Council Plan for 2019/20 will be on our website from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2019.

### Driving sustainable economic growth

Transport for the South East (TfSE), our partnership of the area's 16 transport authorities, launched its Economic Connectivity Review (the first stage of developing the TfSE Transport Strategy) in May 2018. At this event, it was announced that TfSE would receive a £1 million grant from the Department for Transport to assist with the development of the Strategy. TfSE is currently undertaking a period of engagement with stakeholders to gain views on its proposals to Government to secure statutory status and a formal consultation will be launched in May 2019.

Over 160 carriageway asset improvement schemes were delivered in the first three-quarters of 2018-19, with significant improvement works delivered for the A267 and the A22. A major project to reconstruct Heathfield High Street was completed ahead of schedule, with the scheme also seeing parts of the pavement resurfaced and new street lights installed. Work also began on the construction of the Newhaven Port Access Road and on the second and most significant phase of the Eastbourne Town Centre Improvement Scheme. Aimed at modernising the town centre, improving pedestrian conditions and attracting more visitors, it includes the installation of new bus lanes, bus shelters, a high-quality granite road surface and new paving, seating and landscaping.

Significant progress has been made in the implementation of the new Strategy for Library and Information Services, with a range of new library services introduced during the last 12 months. These include an enhanced, modern eLibrary with greater investment, a new children and young people's offer to support literacy and numeracy, increased outreach work in our most disadvantaged communities, and new Community Library Membership and Teachers Library Memberships. In addition Hastings Library reopened in March 2018, following a multi-million pound revamp. This included the installation of a new roof and lift, lighting and furniture. Crowborough Library was also refurbished with an expanded children's area, a newly created space for teens and young adults, new free access computer desks and new stock. Libraries at Ringmer and Langney opened as community libraries, with support from ESCC, after they were closed following the review of the county library services, prompted by the need to make budget savings.

Businesses in East Sussex have been supported to create over 150 jobs in the area during the first three quarters of the year through our business support programmes. In addition, Locate East Sussex has supported 30 businesses to move into, or relocate within the county. The South East Business Boost service, offering grants of between £1,000 and £10,000 to small and medium sized businesses and start-ups for capital projects awarded over £900,000 of grants in East Sussex. In addition, Trading Standards launched a Business Advice & Support Partnership (BAASP) to help businesses and other professionals receive high quality regulatory support and promote their comprehensive range of training workshops including customer care, food allergens and selling on-line. To date, they have led 15 workshops, attracting 244 delegates.

ESCC was named as one of 20 Careers Hubs nationwide, with £200,000 external funding awarded. The East Sussex Careers Hub, which launched in November 2018, will link all secondary schools, special schools and colleges with employers, support organisations and higher and further education providers to improve the guidance and support offered to students. Projects which help young people make the right career choices will also be expanded, including the Industry Champions network (a network of more than 80 champions from local businesses), apprenticeship roadshows, Supported Internships and Apprenticeships for people with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities and Open Doors, where

businesses open their doors to allow students to visit and learn about the world of work. In November 2018, 44 businesses participated in Open Doors and received workplace visits from over 500 students.

81.5% of secondary schools are judged by Ofsted to be good or outstanding, 1.5 percentage points above the national average of 80% as at end May 2018. 92.9% of primary schools in East Sussex are judged to be good or outstanding against the national average of 89.9%. 100% of special schools are judged to be good or outstanding against the national average of 93.4%. Across East Sussex, results for GCSE English and Maths improved with

41.9% of pupils earning grade five — a strong pass or above, an increase from last year's figure of 38.4%.

#### Keeping vulnerable people safe

ESCC became one of the few local authorities to achieve the highest possible rating for its work with vulnerable families. Following an Ofsted inspection, ESCC Children's Social Services is now rated 'Outstanding'. Inspectors were particularly impressed with the 'connected practice' model which places emphasis on social workers creating enduring and trusting relationships with families and children.

Members of ESCC demonstrated their commitment to protect residents by becoming SCAMBassadors for Friends Against Scams. In July 2018, Councillors took part in their first formal training finding out how scammers operate and what they can do to help stop residents from falling victim. The East Sussex Against Scams Partnership, run by the Safer East Sussex Team, helps to protect residents from scams by raising awareness through over 100 partner organisations, such as local businesses, charities, church groups, community enterprises and councils. Nearly 3,000 residents have participated in Friends Against Scams awareness sessions. Trading Standards have also continued their fight against rogue trading in the county, providing support to the most vulnerable and pursuing those who target them. To date, the team have carried out 180 positive interventions to prevent fraud and other scams, and installed 27 call blocking devices to prevent telephone scams.

ESCC was awarded a silver award under the Ministry of Defence Employer Recognition Support Scheme, which honours employers that show a commitment to supporting current and former military personnel. Award judges were impressed with the support given to armed forces cadet volunteers and Army Reserve members

Hastings Community Support Service, based in Bexhill, which helps people with learning disabilities live independent lives was rated 'Outstanding' — the highest possible grading in its report from the Care Quality Commission. The service provides specialist support to adults in their own homes, including support with social activities, daily living skills and personal care.

ESCC again took part in the White Ribbon Campaign's 16 Days of Action to help eliminate domestic violence and abuse against women and girls. During the campaign, ESCC promoted a series of events designed to highlight support available to victims, as well as encouraging people to speak out against violence and abuse.

#### Helping people help themselves

The Duke and Duchess of Sussex visited the ESCC managed Joff Youth Centre in Peacehaven, where they met 50 young people gathered from youth groups around the county, including the elected Youth Cabinet. Their visit focused on the issue of youth mental health which has been a top priority of the Youth Cabinet this year. In November 2018 over 50 young people took part in our Annual Takeover Day to discuss mental health.

ESCC has worked with the 5 district and borough authorities to set up a new scheme which offers up to 100% Council Tax discounts to Care Leavers aged 18-24, using a single protocol and process. We are one of only nine shire counties in England to adopt such a scheme and one of only four to have a countywide scheme.

There have been further improvements against Adult Social Care key measures. Delayed Transfers of Care

(delayed days) from hospital per 100,000 population (aged 18+) has improved from 12.7 in November 2017 to 10.3 in November 2018, The November 2017 figure had already reduced from 24.4 in April

2017. The proportion of older people (aged 65+) who are still at home 91 days after discharge from hospital into reablement or rehabilitation services for April to September 2018 is 92.7%, up from 91.7% over the same period in 2018.

The end of 2017-18 saw the end of the current five year cycle for NHS Health Checks. In this period, the Council achieved the highest proportion of people being offered and receiving their check in the South East.

ESCC has partnered with Crowdfunder UK to provide a new Crowdfund East Sussex online platform, training and support to groups and organisations across the county. Crowdfund East Sussex was launched by awarding €5,000 to five projects that will make a big difference to local communities - [ymw.crowdfunder.co.uk/east-sussex](http://ymw.crowdfunder.co.uk/east-sussex)

#### **Making the best use of our resources**

The Council's budget and Council Plan for 2018/19 were approved at the meeting of Full Council on the 5th February 2018. The budget includes spending of E375 million on services for East Sussex. It also includes savings of E5.1 million. The savings required in the budget were significantly less than first anticipated due to the success of sustained lobbying of central Government. As a result, additional one off funds were secured for social care and special educational needs and disability funding. East Sussex was also selected to be a business rate pilot during 2019-20 which will bring in E4.3m funding to the county area, including an estimated E1 .6m for ESCC.

ESCC also published its 'Core Offer' — a description of a basic but decent level of service which we believe is the very least residents should be able to expect, even with the intense financial pressures we face. As well as meeting our legal duties across all services delivered, the Core Offer includes measures to grow the economy of East Sussex and make sure we invest resources in some preventative and early intervention work where greater costs may otherwise build up. Views were sought on the Core Offer between November and December 2018 and over 1200 responses to the questionnaire were received. Feedback from the questionnaire set out that most people — 78% considered that the Government should allocate more funds to meet the financial gap ESCC faces.

Through our capital programme we have delivered improvements to schools buildings and expansion of facilities across the county providing approximately 1 , 100 additional school places across primary, secondary and special educational needs provision.

Contact: Alice Pippard: [alice.pippard@eastsussex.gov.uk](mailto:alice.pippard@eastsussex.gov.uk) 01273 481816 February 2019