

Update for East Dean and Friston Parish Council

June 2022

Sorry I am unable to join you at your meeting tonight. I just wanted to update you on a number of issues since your last meeting.

1) Bin Strikes

As of the 30th of May, members of the GMB union working for the Council's waste and street cleansing contractor, Biffa, are continuing to take industrial action. The extent of disruption may vary daily. Priority will be given to rubbish collections. Garden waste and recycling are not currently being collected. Clinical waste and sharps box collection services will not be affected. Wealden District Council has advised if your bin has not been emptied on your usual collection day, please leave it in place for three working days as efforts are being made to catch up on missed rubbish collections.

I have been told that Wealden District Council is arranging collection points for residents to bring their household rubbish to for disposal without having to travel to the County Council's local amenity tips. If you are vulnerable or if you have a vulnerable neighbour who is unable to take their bins to a collection point, please do let Wealden Council know and they can contact these residents.

The most up to date info on the strikes can be found here: <https://www.wealden.gov.uk/waste-industrial-action/>

2) Potential Noise Camera

I have been contacted by many residents about the excessive noise from motorbikes and cars using East Dean roads as a racetrack. Caroline Ansell, the MP for Eastbourne, and I have applied to have new state of the art sound cameras introduced to the Birling Gap/Beachy Head stretch of road as part of this trial, as this is a key area where loud cars and motorbikes are gathering on a regular basis. We have put a bid into the Department for Transport to see if we can have these noise cameras installed which work in a similar way as speed cameras but are based on the noise of the vehicles. This application is being supported by Sussex Police. I will keep you updated if we are successful, but these would certainly act as a deterrent if we could get them introduced.

3) A259 South Coast Corridor Improvement Study

A few months ago, the parish council identified the pedestrian crossing points on the A259 both at Friston Green and near the junction with Gilberts Drive as potential areas for improvement under the A259 South Coast Corridor Improvement Study. The scheme has recently contacted me to update me that they are currently refining the scheme package options with ESCC and BHCC officers as well as finalising the preparation of the transport model. Their next steps will be to test and report on the schemes to fulfil their objective to develop a A259 MRN scheme package for inclusion in a Strategic Outline Business Case. The proposed package will then be presented in roughly September 2022, so I will update the parish again on this after the next round of discussions, where I will reiterate the importance of these crossings being improved.

4) Additional Support with Cost of Living

I welcome the extra £15 billion of additional support announced by the Chancellor, on top of the previously announced £22 billion worth of support, which will be a huge help to people across my Lewes constituency. Measures include:

- £650 cost of living payment to over 8 million households (with payments coming in July and the autumn automatically from DWP or HMRC)
- Pensioners will receive an extra £300 on top of the winter fuel payment
- Disabled people will receive £150 (many will also be receiving the £650)
- Benefits will be uprated next year by September's CPI
- Triple lock will be protected
- The Household Support Fund will receive an extra £500 million from September allowing Councils to provide additional support
- The previously announced £200 support for energy bills will be doubled to £400 and the need to pay back removed

5) New measures to Improve Roads

Motorists will benefit from smoother journeys, better-connected communities, and reduced congestion as the government introduces new measures to penalise companies responsible for leaving potholes on the country's roads after carrying out street works. It is expected the new law change could prevent thousands of potholes from being left behind by utility companies nationwide and will ensure more roads are resurfaced to a high standard.