

Attention of East Dean PCC,

I am writing to you hoping you can help me. I am a Trustee of the Beachy Head Chaplaincy Team (BHCT), which, as I am sure you are aware, is a dedicated search and rescue charity, focused on preventing suicides at Beachy Head, East Sussex.

Unfortunately, over the last year, BHCT has had to cancel a number of car patrols along the Beachy Head Road due to dangerous driving by cars and motorbikes.

BHCT responds on average to 2 incidents every day offering crisis intervention and compassionate support to individuals in distress. Our team of trained chaplains patrols the area daily, both on foot and by car, to locate and assist those at risk. Patrolling the Beachy Head Road by car is key to spotting individuals in distress. If we have to cancel any of these patrols, there is the possibility that we will not be able to intervene with an individual in distress.

I was a Town Councillor for Burford District Council in Oxfordshire for over 15 years before I moved to Meads in 2023. I was personally involved in reducing the speed limit in the town and in reducing the speed and introducing additional road markings on the busy A40 approaching the turnoff to Burford following several serious road accidents.

I am aware that there are concerns regarding the safety of Beachy Head Road and I appreciate that any action would involve several agencies. I was wondering whether I could discuss with you the concerns that BHCT has regarding the impact on the safety of their chaplaincy team and the unfortunate cancellation of car patrols.

I attach a letter from MP Josh Babarinde regarding Beachy Head safety concerns.