

Maria Caulfield's Update for Ringmer Parish Council
February 2023

Please accept my apologies that I am unable to join you at your meeting this week. I do however have the following updates for the parish.

1) Speed Restrictions

I met with a few members of the Parish Council last month regarding the best way to work with East Sussex County Council to introduce speed restrictions and safety measures on the roads in the parish. I have also met with residents on Church Lane and Ham Lane in particular. I am speaking to East Sussex County Council and will update the council as soon as I have an update on this.

2) Reporting Potholes

I know that many residents are concerned about the condition of the roads and potholes in the parish. I have been raising particular concerns with East Sussex County Council and understand that some potholes across the constituency have already been repaired. If there are more or residents are not happy with the repairs, please let me know.

3) £1.3m to support drug and alcohol recovery in East Sussex

I am very pleased to welcome £1.3 million to East Sussex in the aim of improving house support for drug and alcohol recovery. This will support a range of projects over the next three years such as training to help those dealing with trauma, women's-only housing for those who have experienced domestic violence and support for those with cognitive impairments due to acquired brain injury. It strengthens the Government's commitment to reducing drug use, and improving treatment outcomes, as part of the government's 10-year drug strategy.

4) Sussex chosen to become hospital bed discharge front runner

I have welcomed the news that Sussex has been chosen as one of the six areas of the country that will benefit from a trial of new innovative solutions to free up hospital beds. This will see Sussex NHS health services trialling a new data tool to help services manage performance, give operational oversight and manage demand. Whether it is ambulance delays, crowded A&Es or shortages of hospital beds, getting people home more quickly from hospital will improve our local health service immeasurably.

5) Mental Health Funding for Sussex

It was great news therefore that as the Minister for Mental Health I was able to announce that the Government is investing a further £150 million in NHS mental health urgent and emergency care services. In Sussex, this funding will go towards a mental health crisis suite and improved ward facilities for those in mental health crisis at Eastbourne General Hospital. Over £800,000 is being allocated to The Haven, a purpose-built mental health assessment facility close to Eastbourne District General Hospital emergency department.

In Sussex, patients also have access to Sussex Mental Healthline which offers listening support, advice, information and signposting to anyone experiencing difficulties, or who may be in crisis and in urgent need of help, with their mental health. This can be accessed by calling NHS 111 and **select option 2** or dial [0800 0309 500](tel:08000309500)