

Update for Ringmer Parish Council

March 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/ HGV Restrictions

I understand that the parish council has been included in my correspondence with East Sussex County Council, Lewes District Council, and Wealden District Council regarding measures that can be taken to reduce the impact of HGVs through the village. I was especially pleased with the response from Lewes District Council that in the Lewes District administrative area they “are scoping the potential in invite from the developers routing plans for large construction vehicles to development sites.” I am still awaiting a response from East Sussex County Council but should the parish council not be copied into this response I will send a copy straight away.

2) New Cost of living payments from Spring 2023

Millions of the lowest-income households across the UK will get up to £1,350 from the Government in 2023/4 to help with the cost of living. This includes a £900 low-income payment, a £150 disability payment and a £300 pensioner payment. More information on these payments such as eligibility and when they will be paid out can be found here:

<https://www.mariacaulfield.co.uk/news/maria-caulfield-mp-lewes-welcomes-new-cost-living-payments-spring-2023>

3) Replacing Class 313 Trains

As you may well know, some services along the coast between Brighton and Lewes are operated by Class 313 carriages. They are the oldest trains run by Southern Rail, dating from the 1970s with no toilet facilities or air conditioning. Many of you have told me about the need for better, more modern trains with more facilities on these well used routes and I have been lobbying for improvements for local passengers with GTR. I am therefore pleased to say, with the introduction of the Summer 2023 timetable from Sunday 21 May, Southern Rail are planning to entirely retire the Class 313. This will mean replacing all Class 313s on the Brighton to Lewes route, so that customers will have a more modern train, with a second member of staff on board.

4) Vulnerable Residents in East Sussex to Benefit from Household Support Fund

I know many families in the Lewes constituency are struggling to make ends meet in the face of rising prices caused by global economic pressures including Putin’s illegal invasion of Ukraine. That is why I am delighted that the Conservative Government has allocated a further £7,793,568 to East Sussex County Council through the Household Support Fund, doubling down on our Conservative commitment to help the most vulnerable families with rising costs. This fund is a lifeline for local residents, and this extension will ensure this vital support is available for families who are struggling for another year.