

LDC & ESCC February 2024 Report
Cllr Johnny Denis

I am away working in Strasbourg this week so I'm not attending mtgs this week. If your mtg is today or this week please accept my apologies

A short update this month with just three items:

East Sussex County Council Has passed a legal balanced budget. It should be noted that it had to draw on £14.3M reserves to do so. Next year's budget requires a much bigger dip (£30.978) and the following year requires a further jaw-dropping £61,825 from reserves to keep the same level of service while Council Tax payers will have to expect to be sweated for every penny that is allowable. Government has been clear with local councils that it expects nothing less. Central government expenditure on duties (such as adult social care and children's services) required of local government has declined year on year for over a decade leaving many councils to declare a section 114 notice, ie effective bankruptcy. East Sussex is not at that point but we can expect no respite from Council tax hikes for the foreseeable future.

Please consider fostering – The County Council has been actively promoting its support for Fostering with a campaign aimed at ordinary folk taking on the challenge of fostering. We need many more foster parents and if they are [Become a foster carer | East Sussex County Council](#) . When the Council is forced to use Foster agencies they cost more to the tax payer and profits are extracted from a valuable public service. The message is 'consider fostering, and if you are, then consider fostering through the County Council where there is a fantastic range of support and higher fostering premiums available along the journey.

At Lewes District Council the Cabinet has also approved a budget to go to Full Council (Next Monday) which includes the revenue funding for Ringmer Swimming Pool. The aim is still to open in (probably late) Spring this year. It remains to be confirmed that the budget is approved by Council on Monday.