

MP Parish Report – June 2026

New County Council Administration

Last month, East Sussex reflected the growing diversity of UK politics, electing councillors from across the political spectrum, including Liberal Democrat, Conservative, Green, Independent and Reform representatives. At the first meeting of the newly formed County Council, however, Conservative and Independent councillors chose to support Reform, enabling them to take control of the council by a single vote, despite opposition from Liberal Democrats and others.

This development is concerning, particularly given the challenges already facing the county after years of Conservative leadership. Many residents continue to raise serious issues, including shortcomings in support for children with special educational needs, increasing pressures in adult social care, and the deteriorating condition of our roads, all core responsibilities of the County Council.

While this was not the outcome I had hoped for, I remain committed to working constructively with the new administration in the interests of local people. It is essential that the council focuses on delivering effective services and addressing these pressing issues with urgency and competence, rather than being distracted by divisive or symbolic actions seen elsewhere. I will continue to hold the administration to account and monitor closely whether it delivers for the people of East Sussex.

SEND Submission

Since becoming a Member of Parliament, I have received a significant volume of correspondence from residents regarding concerns with the SEND system, both locally and nationally. The Government has been consulting on plans to address these issues, and I sought to ensure that the voices of local families were heard.

To support this, I held two consultation events in the constituency with parents, which helped inform my submission to the Government last month. I am grateful to councillors for sharing information with residents and for their engagement in this process. I now await the outcome of the consultation and will keep residents updated as developments progress.

Water

Residents across the constituency have raised serious concerns about water supply and infrastructure. In Rodmell, some households have experienced prolonged periods of low water pressure, with a number left without a reliable supply for weeks at a time. During this period, communication from South East Water has been inadequate, leaving residents frustrated and without clear information about when issues would be resolved.

Similar concerns are being raised in Ringmer, where ongoing supply problems have prompted worries about whether existing infrastructure can cope, particularly in light of proposed new developments.

This is not about opposing housing in principle, but about ensuring that infrastructure keeps pace with growth. New homes must be supported by credible plans for water supply, sewerage capacity and other essential services that both existing and future residents depend on. Too often, communities are told that infrastructure improvements will follow development, yet the experience in places like Rodmell and Ringmer demonstrates that this approach is not sufficient.

For this reason, I have raised directly with the Secretary of State the need for water companies to play a formal role in the planning process. We must ensure that the impact on water and wastewater systems is properly assessed before major developments proceed. I will continue to press for clear answers from water companies and relevant authorities on current supply issues, planned upgrades and whether the network has the capacity required to support further development.

Advice Surgeries

I continue to hold advice surgeries across the constituency. For security reasons, these cannot be advertised in advance. However, if you are aware of a resident who may need assistance, please encourage them to contact my office at james.maccleary.mp@parliament.uk.

I will also be attending events across our towns, villages and parishes over the summer and look forward to engaging with residents during these visits.