

Councillor Report to Hadlow Down Parish Council County Jan 2025

Speed Limit Changes

The news that the A 272 had been included in the proposed speed limit changes was of course excellent news.

In term of timing there is a process to be followed and the paragraph below explains the process.

As you may be aware, before we can change a speed limit, we have to progress a Traffic Regulation Order (TRO). This process normally takes between 6 and 9 months to complete, as we must carry out various consultations and follow a statutory procedure before we request the cost estimate from our contractor for the new traffic signs and road markings to be introduced. Any objections received during the formal advertisement of the proposed TRO will need to be considered by our Planning Committee.

The Road Safety Team will advise when we carry out the statutory consultation procedure and the date of the advertisement of the TRO.

As it does not require a TRO the improved compliance scheme in Hadlow Down 30mph speed limit will be introduced in Summer 2025. The lower speed limits on the A272 Hadlow Down will be progressed during the first year of the Management Programme. It is anticipated that the schemes will be implemented during Winter 2025/26. The lower 40mph and 50mph speed limits on the A267 will be introduced in the second year. The clerk should have received an update on the progress.

Devolution and Local Government Reorganisation

The white paper was published before Christmas and whilst expected it is relatively rare for a White paper not to be preceded by a Green Paper.

The speed of decision making required has been challenging but following a number of discussions within ESCC and across other Upper Tier councils and also Ds and B's the matter was debated at Full Council and also Cabinet at ESCC (decision maker).

Cabinet agreed.

to approve Sussex to be part of the Devolution Priority Programme (DPP).

To develop East Sussex as a Unitary

To ask that elections are postponed in 2025.

The white paper required an expression of interest to be with the minister by last Friday the 10th.

ESCC, WSCC and Brighton and Hove jointly sent a letter requesting for Sussex to be in the DPP. A reply is expected by then of January.

Proposal

In effect the County and the 5 District and Boroughs will be reformed into a single unitary council for East Sussex. This new authority will deliver the services currently delivered by County and Ds and Bs.

In addition, there will be combined authority for the whole of Sussex with an elected mayor. Powers on strategic matters will be devolved from Westminster to the elected mayor. This is the light touch Yorkshire model.

If Sussex is included in the Accelerated programme, then govt will carry out the required consultation around March April which

would have been the purdah period. The Minister is likely to postpone elections for at least 1 year and possibly 2.

The Mayoral elections will be in May 26.

Budget

It was a pleasure to meet with young people including the Youth Cabinet last Saturday morning to hear their views on the budget proposals and their wishes for the future.

The budget proposals themselves will be abled at the Cabinet meeting on the 28th. I anticipate an increase of 2.99% plus an additional 2% ASC precept

RWS