

County Report September 2023 – Cllr Sarah Osbourne

Agenda item 6.2

C7

I have chased up and got the agreement from Highways to replace the Iford village sign and 50mph repeater signs to be replaced that had been damaged some time ago.

Northeast school

Having made representation on behalf of the school to ESCC many months ago (as soon as I knew they faced difficulties staying open) I was hugely relieved to see County and the school come to an agreement on fees. I understand that East Sussex County Council, along with West Sussex and Brighton and Hove, have reached a funding agreement with Northeast Manor School that will run until the end of 2025.

Although we have won this battle, we will keep having to fight to keep the overstretched services we have left sadly there is a national shortage of places at schools for children with SEN and huge waiting lists for assessments.

Health

As well as being your County Councillor I am currently also Deputy Chair of a Board at the Local Government Association which support local government in its delivery of its health responsibilities including Public Health. It is in that role that I have now called on the Government to ban the sale and manufacture of single use vapes by 2024. It is crucial that that ban comes into effect rapidly, as with the EU proposing a ban in 2026 and France rolling out a ban in Dec 2023, there is a risk that as markets close disposable vapes will flood into the UK.

Disposable vapes are a hazard for waste and litter collection and cause fires in bin lorries are almost impossible to recycle without going through special treatment.

I am also concerned about the impact vaping is having upon children and young people. It is worrying that more and more children – who have never smoked – are starting vaping.

Period Bank

I have asked for The Period Bank project to be extended into Lewes Library asap.

The project run by East Sussex Library Service is helping to tackle period poverty by accepting donations of tampons, pads and reusable period products at all 17 libraries, to supply to anyone who needs them. There is no referral process, products can be taken as often as needed by the customer, from participating library entrances.

Currently free period products to the public are at eight library sites (Eastbourne, Newhaven, Hastings, Hailsham, Crowborough, Seaford, Peacehaven and Rye) within the county but I have asked that the team to expand into Lewes library.

Periodbank has proved extremely popular, in as much as no sooner do staff refill the points, they are often empty, demand simply outstrips our donated supply.