

Report Back – 31st August 2015 by District Councillor Vic Ient

This report can also be seen at: <https://sussexcampaign.wordpress.com/> If you read this on your computer many of the headings can be 'clicked' through to the web link.

A busy August! **Here is my report with updates to mid Sept.** Subjects covered include:

- [Planning appeals -update](#)
- [Spring Barn Farm Centre](#)
- [Planning appeals -update](#)
- [Shooting Lodge](#)
- [On the Buses!](#)
- [South Downs National Park Plan](#)

Also covered in this report: **Power to the Parishes - Major Developments in Newhaven - Highways and Road Problems – Report a Planning Threat – Check Bus Times – On Street Parking in Lewes - - Council Tax Reduction Scheme.**

Power to the Parishes

As you may know the majority of planning applications are decided upon by the officers of the planning authority and not the members! Also, as you may, know the Ouse Valley area as far south as Piddinghoe is within the National Park. All planning applications are decided either by The National Park officers or members or under delegated powers by the Lewes District Council. In fact, many applications are dealt with by the District Council and not the National Park. At the District Council there are specific rules if a parish council objects to a planning application. I'm not sure if the public or parish councillors are aware but if a parish council objects to a planning application and the officers of the planning authority would otherwise propose to give permission the application has to be considered by the members of the planning committee. Consequently it is very important for parish councils to make sure that their letters or emails are clearly marked as being sent on behalf of the parish council.

Major Developments in Newhaven – effect on C7?

In the last month two major planning applications have been approved by Lewes District Council for developments in Newhaven. They are shore-based facilities for the Rampion Windfarm at Fisher Terminal East Quay and a major New Berthing Area with a general expansion at Newhaven Port:

Rampion Base:



Plate 1: Visualization of OEM facility. For illustration purposes only.

Port Expansion:



These developments are good news for employment in the area but they are also cause for concern with regard to the traffic they will generate both in construction and in their continuing use. Increased traffic will also be generated by the new UTC facility currently being constructed, but of course it is good news for employment and training opportunities. Also, the construction of the Flood Alleviation Scheme by the Department of the Environment will increase the heavy traffic in the area. All these developments as well as the many hundreds (possibly thousands) of new homes planned for the area will significantly increase traffic in and out of Newhaven and along the C7. Yes, we do have a weight restriction on the C7 but that doesn't stop any other form of traffic using the road.

At the meeting where the planning applications in the port were considered I specifically asked for a condition to be applied to the planning permissions directing all commercial and heavy traffic out of Newhaven via the A26. Sadly the officers spoke against this but I shall continue to press for measures including better signage and road modifications

to encourage drivers leaving the industrial areas of Newhaven to travel up the A26. I also made it clear to the committee that negotiations should have been undertaken for these port developments to connect directly to the railway system which passes the rear of the two developments! In fact there still is an operational Newhaven Marine station! As I understand it, is currently not used for the public but is kept open by the railway company in agreement with the unions!

The highway authority needs to take on board the impact of these developments and improve the road system in signage to encourage traffic to use the main A26 road in and out of Newhaven.

Planning



It has been a busy summer and there's still more to come. Not only has there been the usual high level of planning applications in the area but we have had three planning appeals to contend with. Two are over and we have one yet to come. This is about the game bird breeding activity at Iford farm. **This appeal will be heard on Wednesday, 23 September.** [Click for full report.](#)

Spring Barn Farm Centre: The first planning appeal we had to deal with in the Ouse valley was at Spring Barn Farm Centre. This appeal was held in writing and submissions had to be in by 17 July 2015. [Click for full report](#)

Shooting Lodge:

This has been the most difficult appeal to date. This hearing was held on 25th of August. There was little or no publicity in the lead up to the hearing which I believe disadvantaged many people. No one from the public gallery spoke in favour of the shooting lodge. It was a great pity the inspector would not accept written submissions by people who could not get to the hearing. We have not been served well by the local authority and by the Planning Inspectorate processes. I will be lodging a complaint to both of these departments. [Click for full report](#)

On the Buses!



A story of good news (well a small amount!) and bad news. The bad news is that the 130 bus service, which runs once a day from Rodmell to Brighton, will be withdrawn unless subsidies can be found. The good news is that there is to be a small, but useful improvement made to the 123 bus service. In August, I met with the Managing Director of the bus operator. **I am pleased to advise you that the services, in both directions which run just after 9 am, will now take concessionary fares.** [Click for full report](#)



South Downs National Park Plan

The plan will cover all of the villages in the Ouse valley from Kingston to Piddinghoe as well as St Ann Without and Falmer. [Click for more details.](#) Parish councils in the area have been invited to their own consultation session in September. Consultation will be open until **28 October 2015**. You can read and comment on the Local Plan here:

<https://consult.southdowns.gov.uk/consult.ti/localplanpo/consultationHome>

Highways and road problems?



Report a pothole, drain problem, lighting issues or footpath problems? Just click on the link on the right side of this page or [click here](#) or copy this link to you browser:

<https://eastsussex.fixmystreet.com/>

ESCC Highways also has a Facebook and Twitter site. Just click the image on the left.

Report a planning threat



Is there a planning threat near where you live? Let the CPRE know and they will help spread the word. Complete the [CPRE on-line form](#) and they will add it to the interactive on-line map:

<http://www.cpresussex.org.uk/news/protect-sussex/report-a-planning-threat>

Check bus time?

For the 123 bus service check [Compass travel timetable](#):

<http://www.compass-travel.co.uk/compass-timetables/places-we-serve-east-sussex/>

Or to check your next bus use this link:

<http://www.traveline.info/>

or get the app for your mobile phone – click the image for the link:



Council Tax Reduction scheme – have your say by 17 Sept

Lewes District Council are consulting about options to change the current Council Tax Reduction Scheme, which helps low income households of working age to pay their council tax. The Council has to save £50million, so is asking residents whether they would prefer the council to:

- increase council tax
- reduce funding for other services
- use council reserve to pay for this scheme, or
- reduce the level of financial support for the scheme by introducing a minimum amount that working age people will have to pay.

- The consultation runs until **17 September 2015**. You can respond here:

<http://www.lewes.gov.uk/council/23535.asp>

On street parking in Lewes

ESCC are considering making changes to existing parking and waiting restrictions in the Lewes area (both Lewes town and Lewes district). The council are looking for comments of their proposals regarding Lewes Town right now See: <https://consultation.eastsussex.gov.uk/economy-transport-environment/lewes-town-and-district-parking-review-2015>. Consultations Run until **25 Sep 2015**.

Previous reports: My 'Report Back' of 31st July covered the following topics:

Kingston, Spring Barn Farm — Shooting Lodge Planning Appeal (on 25th August) — Piddinghoe, two barns at Court Farm — Planning issues — Broadband in Rodmell — Kingston to Lewes Cycle Path (Cockshut Lane) —Traffic Survey in Rodmell — C7 Road Safety — Egrets Way — Walkabout in Iford —Iford & Swanborough Community Embroidery Project — Waste! — Encouraging Public Participation — Petitions to the Council — Planning, Wider Consultation — Cabinet or committee? — Local Plans — Housing — The '49' sites — Business rates — Lewes District Council organisation — Potholes, Hedges and Verges — Key Issues for the Ouse Valley Villages — Cuts to the 123 bus service — C7 Road / Safety /Speeding — Brighton & Lewes Downs Biosphere — Kingston Ward in Figures.

[Just click here to see the report](#)
