

Progress on Potholes?

From 29th January buses were diverted from Harrow Lane, along Little Ridge Avenue because of the potholes. Remedial work has been done (Stagecoach obviously has more clout than you & me) but whilst the massive development work off the lane is responsible for some of this, neglect is to blame. County are pretty good at jumping on Joe Public if they mess with highways, let's hope they're as good at holding developers to account, as there will be more work to be done.



Meanwhile Guy Harris has been working with the 1,200+ Hastings & Rother Potholes Facebook Group and spoke on the Radio 2 Jeremy Vine show on their behalf. The government may bung money at the problem from time to time, trying to look good, but it is the Tories' persistent failure to fund local councils properly that is at the root of the problem.

Sandrock



A good 130 people attended the public meeting on the proposed Sandrock development and it was clear that most, if not all, were against. Stewart Rayment put the point that if Hastings Borough sold their land to the St Helens Park Preservation Society, that would be a major deterrent to the proposed development; merely saying that the borough's land should not be built on isn't enough. But it is East Sussex County Council's land which is key and

Stewart has raised the issue with David Tutt, leader of the Lib Dem opposition on ESCC. Meanwhile Stewart and Bob Lloyd from St Helens are seeking residents' opinions on the issue.

Queensway Gateway

The ongoing saga of the Queensway Gateway link to the A21 shows no sign of ending, with East Sussex County Council now needing another £3 million to finish the job. When the Bexhill road was being planned many questioned why the link to the A21 wasn't included at that point – years of traffic jams on The Ridge instead. Tories asleep on the job again. Stewart Rayment thinks that a full audit of the project is needed, with lessons to be learnt by County and proper public control of bodies like SeaChange.

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Tory Waiting Game on Ambulance times

Talk to any of the medical staff at the Conquest Hospital and they'll tell you that the problems are lack of funding, waiting lists and an ageing population. Rishi Sunak and the Conservatives have failed on all of this. Lib Dem MP Daisy Cooper's Ambulance Waiting Times Bill, introduced into Parliament in the 2021-22 session has not yet reached its 2nd reading – some idea of Tory priorities. Along with .



this, Guy Harris & Stewart Rayment are calling for a fix on social care, more hospital beds, more community mental health support and a paramedic recruitment drive

Town Deal... is it real?

The Town Deal consultation was launched at the end of January. Like most of these things it looks attractive at first glance, but with the closure of Harold Place to traffic and diversion of bus routes through pedestrian areas, it is not so. Stagecoach reckons that the proposals would mean the relocation of all the bus stops in the town centre, with an open question as to where those routes might go.



Rather than suck visitors to the town down to the seafront wouldn't it be better to get them to the shops where they can boost the local economy? Perhaps somewhere like Queens Road, where many of the businesses struggle from lack of footfall, you'd get a better bang for your buck. This is part of what's wrong with funding councils and at best greenwash. Make sure you have your say. The consultation ends 1st March <http://consultation.eastsussex.gov.uk/economy-transport-environment/hastingsgreenconnections/>