

Mount Pleasant News



From your local Labour team: Peter Chowney, Tania Charman & Jeremy Birch

February 2015

Jam Today?



After months of complaints by local people and pressure from councillors, East Sussex County Council finally resurfaced Mount Pleasant Road, almost a year after the repairs were first approved. However, apart from some minor traffic calming measures, nothing has been done to reduce traffic volumes on the road.

Tania said:

“Mount Pleasant Road really can't cope with the volume of traffic that passes along it, and never was appropriate as the designated 'Ring Route' for Hastings. Parking is difficult, and the big lorries and buses that routinely use the road can't pass, and have to drive up onto the footway. However, with the link road opening, and the new Queensway Gateway link, traffic on Mount Pleasant ought to go down significantly. For that to happen, we need new direction signs, diverting through traffic around areas like Mount Pleasant that can't cope with it. So we'll be pursuing this with the county council, arguing that through traffic should be diverted around the new roads, and the old 'ring road' route abolished.”



Cllr. Tania Charman

Council Budget: More Cuts

Hastings Council's draft budget for 2015/16 is now out to consultation, with the council making a decision on the final budget later in February. With big cuts in central government grants—much bigger than for other East Sussex councils, and one of the biggest percentage cuts in England, cuts to services have to be considered.



Peter said:

“The money Hastings gets from the government has gone down by more than half over the last four years. We've continued to make real savings through efficiencies, with more to come, by getting people to apply for services online rather than face-to-face. But some services will have to be cut—for example, grants to the voluntary sector are being reduced, and the Old Town Museum is earmarked for closure.



Cllr. Peter Chowney

Around 20 jobs will be lost. There are some bright spots though: we're raising money through the Arts Council and others for celebrations of the 950th anniversary of the Battle of Hastings, and our bid for a £500,000 Coastal Communities grant for seafront improvements was successful. In future, we will be focusing more effort on bidding for alternative funding, from the EU especially. It looks like a lot more of the money we spend will have to be raised in this way if we're to continue the regeneration of our borough.”

Sarah Owen is Labour's candidate to be MP for Hastings & Rye at the general election on May 7th. Sarah says:

"I was born and bred in Hastings, and have worked here, so I understand the kind of problems experienced by local people every day in Tressell ward. If I'm elected, I promise to fight for a fair deal for all, to protect the NHS and public services, and for the necessary resources to continue the regeneration of Hastings."

Find out more about Sarah at www.sarahowen.org.uk, or leave her a message on: 01424 424125



Dog mess and litter?

You can report any street cleansing or refuse problems on 01424 451077.

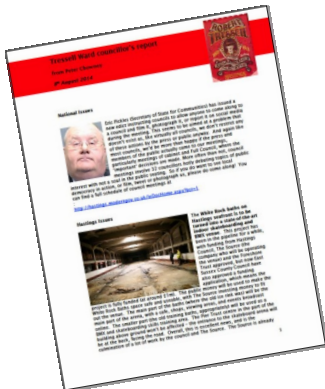
e-mail: refuseandrecycling@hastings.gov.uk



Crime and anti-social behaviour?

You can contact the Safer Hastings Partnership by e-mail at: communitysafety@hastings.gov.uk. Or you can contact one of the Community Support Officers for Tressell Ward directly: Chi Yau (07770 443014) or David Gibbins-Jones (07787 685787). They work shifts, so leave a message if he isn't on duty. And you can also phone 101, the police non-emergency number. But don't forget, if you see a crime in progress, ring 999!

For all other issues involving Hastings Council, phone 01424 451066, and just say the name of the person or department you want to contact, or the problem you want to report. You will then be put through to the right person.



Tressell Councillors also produce monthly reports:

- On Tressell Ward issues (from Cllr. Tania Charman);
- On Hastings Borough Council issues (from Cllr. Peter Chowney);
- On Tressell & Old Hastings county council division issues (from Cllr Jeremy Birch).

If you would like to receive these by e-mail, contact Peter Chowney, or download them from the Tressell Councillors website.

You can contact your Labour councillors at:

Town Hall, Queen's Road, Hastings, East Sussex, TN34 1QR or:

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