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Report to Parish Councils – March 2023

This report is written is for Parish Councils meeting in March, It is for all 7 parishes in Northern Rother.

Some of the items here are from information circulated by ESCC but which may not have drawn the attention of parish councillors and others.

It has been a quiet month, so this report is shorter than usual.

Potholes

Potholes and general road conditions continue to be top of my list. As well as responding to messages from residents I have inspected many of the known problem areas. The latest update from ESCC is that as of 16th February 7299 potholes have been repaired this calendar year with 1619 outstanding. There are still 21 gangs working on this, compared to the normal 11.

I am pushing for more general patching or resurfacing to be carried out once the weather improves.

There has been much discussion in parish councils as well as at East Sussex about whether the overall strategy for pothole and road repairs is the most effective. I believe that given limited funds this is the case, but all councillors are monitoring this closely.

County Services and Budget

As forecast last month the budget for 23/24 was approved at Full Council on 7 February. The

key headlines are:

- No cuts in services
- Increase of 3% in council tax and 2% in social care precept, the maximum permitted by government without a referendum

There was an opposition motion for a very slightly revised budget for increased spending of about £5M on a range of items, but this used funding already allocated elsewhere and was defeated. This seems to confirm that there is little scope for variations in budget.

Cases

Each month I will give updates for a sample of current cases across Northern Rother. I currently have about 10 which are being progressed. I now only show updates or new information on significant cases. Please look at previous reports for the full background.

Development off the Paddocks, Northiam

The major issue at the moment is contractors parking in the Paddocks or Goddens Gill. Whilst this is legal in most cases, it causes inconvenience to local residents. I have continued liaison with the site manager and developer. This has helped in some cases. Some contractors have parked on the A28 but this in itself causes other issues. The use of the parking by the scout huts has been agreed.

The HGVs delivering heavy goods to the site have caused some damage to the corners by the green. The developer had already agreed to remedy this and has committed to agreeing the best approach with highways. *Some temporary repairs have been put in place and seem to be working, with permanent repairs expected once the main construction traffic has eased.*

Contractors have not been using the scout hut area for parking. Following messages to be from residents I have raised again with Greymoor who sent their Head of Construction to speak to contractors. I am expecting that this will give results but continue to monitor it.