

Cllr Richard Jessop's Report to Battle Town Council, April 2017

Tuesday 14th March 2017: Attended a meeting of the East Sussex Association of Local Councils (ESALC) Spring Conference at the Blackstock Farm complex in Hellingly. Attendees were given updates on policing issues by Katy Bourne, the Police and Crimes Commissioner; on Conflict Management by Roger Taylor – concerning issues between staff and councillors; on Effective Representation at Planning Appeals by Lindsay Frost, on the East Sussex Trading Standards Initiative by Lucy Corrie and on Health and Rural Isolation by Teresa Gittins. Attendees at these events gain Continuing Professional Development (CPD) points which helps their councils when seeking a Quality Award.

Wednesday, 15th March 2017: Attended a meeting of the Battle Charities Trustees at Herrington Solcrs premises in Battle. This was my first meeting on behalf of our Town Council and we discussed giving grants to needy families to help meet their costs of school uniforms and for others towards their heating costs. I have been appointed as a cheque signatory on behalf of the charity.

Monday, 20th March 2017: Attended a meeting of the Rother District Council Overview and Scrutiny Committee at Bexhill's Town Hall to hear their debate upon civil parking enforcement. I found the debate disappointing and a further discussion is to be held by them in July when a report from officers on costs and sustainability of any new scheme should be available. Some members thought that should have been available at that evening's meeting. It still appears from the contributions made by some RDC members that there is hostility towards imposing any parking restrictions in Bexhill and – effectively – tough on Battle and Rye.

Tuesday, 28th March 2017: Attended an open evening of the Battle Museum of Local History. The museum was proud to present their newest display cabinet collections prior to the season's opening. The event was very well attended.

Wednesday, 29th March 2017: Attended a meeting of the Neighbourhood Plan Group at the Almonry. At this meeting the items discussed included the scope of the 'Call for Sites' presentation at the end of April where it was agreed to only present the sites that have been proffered for possible development opportunities, the number and content of the display boards and the distribution and content of the publicity material of that event.

Monday, 3rd April 2017: I attended a meeting of the Quality Awards panel at The Almonry in Battle. Subject to minor clarifications both East Peckham Parish Council and Westerham Town Council are to be awarded 'Quality' awards.

Tuesday, 4th April 2017: Visited Uckfield Civic Centre for a meeting of the East Sussex Association of Local Councils. Amongst matters discussed was the reluctance of Bexhill residents via one of their residential leaders to want a new Town Council but to strive for a Community Forum. It has been pointed out to that person that a Forum cannot raise any funds other than be given monies to them by Rother District Council. Nor would they have the Power of Competence to take over any community assets should they become available, etc. An update on the A27 proposed roadworks was given (not likely to progress) and a review of the ESALC Spring Conference was undertaken. It was noted that Jacqui Simes was retiring at the end of this week and that Anna Beams has become the new Office Manager for SSALC. Full minutes of the meeting will shortly be available on the ESALC website.

Richard Jessop

4th April 2017