Report from the Chairman Sep – Oct 2019

Activities as a Councillor

20\textsuperscript{th} Sep  
Council Awareness on Abbey Green

25\textsuperscript{th} Sep  
Strengthening Local Relationships meeting – minutes to P&T

26\textsuperscript{th} Sep  
RALC speeding workshop – verbal report given to P&T, full report will be presented at a RALC meeting

10\textsuperscript{th} Oct  
ESALC AGM and Conference (see below)

14\textsuperscript{th} Oct  
Met with Cllr Sharman and Marilyn Waughman, Chairman of BB, to discuss the Almonry Garden.

Mayor’s engagements

19\textsuperscript{th} Sep  
Attended Don Fellows’ funeral (British Legion)

26\textsuperscript{th} Sep  
Installation of the Dean

13\textsuperscript{th} Oct  
Bexhill Mayor’s Civic Service

ESALC AGM

All proposals for the election of President, Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Vice-Presidents, Directors and Representatives were carried per nominations on the agenda. I felt able to vote on the Appointment of Directors as they had been nominated by the District Associations. With no information about the other nominees, I abstained from voting. A copy of the reports is available in the office.

Conference

Working together – Becky Shaw, CEO, ESCC

BS noted that 20% of the population of E Sussex is of pensionable age (national average = 17%), which she considered to be an asset, though it creates an additional draw on funding for health and social support. The Council has to be realistic in the services they can offer. For example, it would cost £223m to undertake all the road repairs in the county. It was interesting to hear that 90% of businesses in E Sussex employ fewer than four people. ESCC has launched Business East Sussex, which offers guidance and loans. The Social Value Marketplace encourages buying local.

Improving Communications by Town & Parish Councils – Breakthrough Communications & Strategies

Interesting points: 80% of people looking at digital media are accessing it via a mobile ‘phone or tablet, so it is important that websites are accessible and look good on these devices; The top social media platforms continue to be Facebook (usage by over 50s is increasing), Twitter and Instagram; Google remains the world’s most used search engine and the second one is .... U Tube.
Changes to Community Policing - ACC Julia Chapman, Sussex Police

There will be an additional 30 PCSOs in Sussex and defined geographic areas will have a named PCSO. Our area will be Battle and its villages. There will also be six Rural PCSOs (two in East Sussex) reporting to a Rural Crime Sergeant, who will work on rural, wildlife and heritage crime. She concluded “Don’t think we know – just keep telling us.”

ESCC Update – Cindy Nadesan, ESCC

Following the Public Services (Social Value) Act 2012, ESCC has introduced a Social Value Charter. For contracts over £100,000, 10% of the decision making is made regarding social value, thereby using contracts as a force for good.

An online platform – East Sussex Marketplace – is being developed to enable organisations and suppliers to request and offer help, put them in touch and then enable them to feed back on their engagement. It will be launched soon and is likely to be presented at a RALC meeting.