

Members' Update - East Sussex County Council - April 2024 Cllr.....

Adult Social Care

East Sussex County Council approves plan to distribute financial support to local residents

On 25 April 2024, the Lead Member for Adult Social Care and Health agreed to approve a plan for the use of the funds East Sussex has been allocated as part of the Household Support Fund 2024. On 6 March 2024, national government announced that the Fund would be extended for a further six months, from 1 April 2023 to 30 September 2024. East Sussex County Council has been allocated £3,896,783.88 for the six-month extension period.

The minutes of the meeting are available [here](#).

Communities, Economy and Transport

Views sought to shape future Autism services

Autistic people and their support networks in East Sussex are being encouraged to share their views on the range of services, facilities, and opportunities available across the county. To mark World Autism Acceptance Week, which runs from 2 to 8 April, East Sussex County Council has launched a public consultation on behalf of the East Sussex Autism Partnership Board. This will help to develop an All Age Autism Action Plan which will support Autistic people of all age groups in East Sussex, from childhood to adulthood.

Autistic people who live and work in East Sussex are encouraged to have their say about their experiences of health and care services, as well as transport, housing and education, and the availability and scope of employment and volunteering opportunities.

Find out more and take part in the consultation by visiting the county council's [consultations website](#). Residents can also give their feedback via email at apb@eastsussex.gov.uk, over the phone by calling 07745 106 727, or by writing to Bernadette van Gaalen, Autism Project and Engagement Manager, East Sussex County Council, County Hall, St Anne's Crescent, Lewes, BN7 1UE. Paper copies of the survey can also be requested via email or phone, and completed surveys can be returned using the pre-paid envelope provided.

Read more about this story [here](#).

South Downs National Park at forefront of wellbeing scheme

A new scheme has been launched to help more people from urban areas access the South Downs National Park. Health and wellbeing grants have been created for residents in parts of Sussex and Surrey who might not have visited before and who may struggle with transport costs. The scheme is run in partnership with Community Transport Sussex, which is able to provide a minibus service to and from the park.

This story was published by the [BBC](#).

New app to help residents prepare for the future

A new app designed to help residents lead a full and healthy life in older age has been officially launched. Residents are being encouraged to download the Life Transitions app to support them to prepare and plan for their future life, including events such as retirement, moving home, changes in health and mobility, finding new roles and purpose, becoming a carer, or experiencing bereavement. The app is part of a pilot scheme supported by UK Research and Innovation funding as part of the Healthy Ageing Challenge. It will help people think about what's important to them, what resources they have, and what they will need to feel prepared for significant changes. It has been developed based on feedback from residents about the kind of help and support they might benefit from.

For support with the app, information about volunteering or getting support from a volunteer email LifeTransitions@eastsussex.gov.uk or call 07724 287034.

For more information, visit [Life Transitions Service – East Sussex 1Space](#).

Read more about this story [here](#).

Sussex residents asked to get involved to help nature and wildlife

People are being asked to share their experiences and observations of nature and wildlife in Sussex as part of a nationwide initiative to address declining habitats and species. Residents are being asked for feedback about what aspects of nature and wildlife are important to them and what changes they have noticed locally, which will help inform Local Nature Recovery Strategies.

The easiest way for residents to get involved is to complete the survey which asks questions about how and where they connect with nature, the habitats or species they value, any changes they've noticed, and any wider benefits they'd like to see in their local area. It should take around 5-10 minutes to complete.

The survey can be found [here](#) and will close on 30 June. For more information about the strategies and how local people can get involved, visit www.sussexnaturerecovery.org.uk.

Read more about this story [here](#).

East Sussex County Council to restore heritage Sussex rail bridge

Campaigners have welcomed the news that the Church Road Bridge in Barcombe near Lewes has been saved. The bridge was built in the 19th century as part of the line connecting Lewes and East Grinstead but closed in the 1950s. National Highways had planned to fill it with concrete to improve its safety but has now deferred ownership to East Sussex County Council, who have said they will sympathetically restore it. Campaigners have maintained that the area is vital to the local ecosystem.

Read more about this story [here](#).

Community groups urged to apply for Crowdfunder campaign

Projects enhancing the lives of residents are invited to apply to the Crowdfund East Sussex campaign, which will match fund public donations from the county council's Community Wellbeing Fund up to a total of £25,000. Projects that promote cultural vitality, economic prosperity, social equity, and environmental sustainability across East Sussex are encouraged to apply and up to 10 projects will be chosen to receive a share of the match funding. Applications for Crowdfund East Sussex 2024 opened on 29 April and will close at midnight on 23 May. The fundraising campaign will start on 27 May.

More information about the council's Community Wellbeing Fund and the Crowdfunder campaign, including how to apply, can be found at [here](#).

Read more about this story [here](#).