

ESCC report to Etchingam Parish Council 20th October 2022

New Highways Contract

EAST Sussex County Council's new contract for highways and infrastructure services has been awarded to Balfour Beatty Living Places Ltd.

The contract, valued at £297 million, will run for an initial seven years from May 1, 2023, with an option to extend to a maximum of 14 years - worth up to £730 million.

Balfour Beatty Living Places will be responsible for maintaining the county's highway network and infrastructure, including roads, pavements, drainage, streetlights, traffic lights and bridges. They will also provide winter gritting across the county and deliver highway improvement schemes.

During an extensive procurement process, bidders were asked to demonstrate how they would support the county council's efforts to reduce its carbon footprint, ensure quality of work, provide value for money and how they can improve social wellbeing across the county.

Funding confirmed for bus improvements

East Sussex County Council has received confirmation from Government that it will receive £41,415,025 to implement its Bus Service Improvement Plan (BSIP) – proposals to help the council and bus operators improve services and increase the use of public transport.

The funding, which will benefit people in every part of the county, will support;

- Bus priority improvements including physical infrastructure and traffic light priority
- Bus service improvements including fixed route and timetabled services and flexible services with improved frequencies, later evening services and improved weekend services
- Fare reductions
- Bus Stop improvements including the provision of high-quality interchanges, more and improved bus shelters and more real time information at stops

Ahead of funding being confirmed, and to take full advantage of the summer season, the county council agreed to fund a range of fare reductions for bus passengers that were part of the BSIP proposals.

A number of operators across East Sussex already offer discounts including a new £5 East Sussex single operator day ticket, family and group travel tickets and an off-peak unaccompanied young person £1 flat single fare tickets.

With the two and a half year funding allocation now confirmed, officers will progress with the delivery of the BSIP schemes at pace to ensure that the benefits are obtained by the residents of East Sussex as early as possible.

More information about the plan is available [here](#).

Events programme celebrates Older People's Day

East Sussex County Council and East Sussex Seniors' Association have unveiled the 15th annual Older People's Day events programme. The Full of Life programme celebrates the role older people play in our communities and coincides with the UN International Day of Older Persons on October 1.

A mix of free and paid for in person activities and virtual events are open to the 50 plus age group across the county throughout September and October.

Starting with the first event on September 6, this year's programme features age friendly activities ranging from museum visits, quizzes, and lunch clubs to film screenings, walks, and singalongs, as well as events for people with dementia.

Activities are taking place in locations across East Sussex including Battle, Bexhill, Crowborough, Eastbourne, Hastings, Newhaven and Seaford.

Events being held include a visit to Hastings Museum and Art Gallery, a day trip to Battle, a talk about the Kent Surrey Sussex Air Ambulance Charity in Eastbourne, and a singalong session for people with dementia and their carers in Bexhill.

People can view the full programme and find out more information about events taking place in their area [here](#).

The Older People's Day events programme is supported by East Sussex County Council, East Sussex Seniors' Association and the NHS, in partnership with leisure centres, local councils, charities, community and voluntary organisations.

Recruitment campaign shines light on positives

East Sussex County Council has launched a new campaign encouraging people to consider a career with ESCC amid a national recruitment crisis.

For the 'We Choose East Sussex' campaign, some of the local authority's 11,000 employees have shone a light on the positives that drew them to their roles. The support of colleagues, the chance to make a positive difference for residents, the flexibility to balance home and work life, and the varied career opportunities were among the positives they highlight.

The colourful campaign aims to address the recruitment crisis which is affecting businesses and organisations across the country with growing numbers of people not in employment who are not looking for work.

It features the authentic voices of staff describing their jobs in their own words. The video which can be viewed [here](#) and more information about career opportunities can be found [here](#).

Celebrating work experience programme success

More than 3,600 students from across East Sussex have been given an insight into the world of work thanks to the council's work experience scheme. Coordinated by East Sussex County Council's Work Experience Team, the initiative offers workplace opportunities to students aged 14 to 18.

During the last academic year, pupils from 32 schools were offered placements with over 1,400 businesses across the county providing valuable hands-on workplace experience.

The placements allow students to gain a better understanding of East Sussex businesses and hear what employers expect of their staff, as well as providing them with the opportunity to get information directly from businesses and learn about career pathways.

Employers from a wide variety of business sectors offered placements to students this year including manufacturing, construction, engineering, catering, health care, teaching, retail and tourism.

The council is keen to hear from businesses across East Sussex who would like to offer work experience placements to students during the current academic year.

Businesses interested in finding out more should contact the Work Experience team [here](#).

Fostering:

The council continues its recruitment search for new Foster Parents. Information can be found here: <https://www.eastsussex.gov.uk/children-families/children-in-care/fostering>

Events celebrate Libraries Week 2022

Libraries Week, which runs from October 3 to 9, is an annual celebration of the best that libraries have to offer, and this year aims to showcase how libraries are inspiring learning for all and helping individuals to unlock and fulfil their potential at every stage of life.

A series of events will be running in libraries across the county over the coming weeks to celebrate Libraries Week.

Free events for adults and children will be taking place in East Sussex libraries in late September and throughout October to encourage people to never stop learning. Events include writing for wellbeing workshops, author led storytelling sessions, creative writing courses, and poetry.

Regular library activities such as Rhymetime, Homework and Activity Clubs, and Family Learning events will also continue to take place in libraries across the county throughout October.

More information on the events being held to celebrate Libraries Week 2022, and information on how to book a place can be found [here](#).

Further details about the East Sussex library service and the activities on offer are available [here](#).