

## Emily O'Brien's Report for 8<sup>th</sup> November 2022 Meeting

Councillor Johnny Denis & I continue to work with local resident to promote a petition asking East Sussex County council to take action on the growing number of HGVs using narrow or unsuitable roads as a cut through. A successful protest, postponed previously due to the death of HM Queen, took place on Tuesday 18th October at the Ringmer Village Green and was great fun, attracting a large and good humoured crowd (there was quite a lot of shouting at HGVs, who mostly took it in good spirit!). The protest got good press coverage. Please continue to sign and share the petition throughout East Sussex - it's at <https://bit.ly/VillageHGVs>.

Picking up this issue, at the suggestion of one of our residents, I have drafted a motion for the next Lewes District Council meeting focussing on what we can do as a council to reduce HGV traffic via the planning system, in particular begin much stronger in our expectations about how developers manage construction traffic i.e. that this is given much more consideration, earlier on (sometimes the construction management plans feel like an afterthought which just isn't right) and that the plans look specifically at the routing of construction traffic away from villages and unsuitable roads.

Still on planning, there is a committee meeting next Wednesday and this will consider the Ovesco solar farm proposal so likely to be well attended. Many continue to be affected by the cost of living crisis, and we held a district council Cost of Living summit that brought together different groups to help ensure joined up efforts. We continue to do all we can to support local people and are also supporting local organisations including food banks. Please do have a look at the Lewes District Council website if you need information about what support is on offer with the cost of living crisis.

Traffic is an ongoing issue, and I have asked to work with Ringmer Parish council re requesting an extension of the double yellow lines on Harrisons Lane near the junction with the Lewes Road for safety reasons. This will hopefully be on the agenda. I am really struggling to get answers from East Sussex County Council currently e.g. have been waiting since May to get an answer re a date for resurfacing a twitten which is a health hazard for disabled resident. I am considering a press release (in desperation), please let me know if there are any similar cases I should mention.

Following my motion to the district council in May, Southern Water came in for questioning on Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> November, at the District Council's PPAC committee. They did their best to avoid questions but we still got some useful commitments, including the offer to town and parish councils that they would come and do site visits with Town and Parish Councils, on request, to coincide with the publication of the new Drainage and Waste Water Treatment Plan in the new year.

I am still following up the catastrophic fish deaths at Glynde Reach . There seems to be consensus (and convincing scientific evidence) this is due to weather and water conditions due to climate change – rather than pollution or sewage – but I will shortly be meeting with the Environment Agency for more answers. I continue to be concerned we do all we can to prepare for the already 'baked in' climate change which will happen regardless of any measures we take now to prevent further deterioration, and we are certainly seeing an awful lot of weather. After the record breaking summer and September temperatures, on Thursday in 24 hours nearly 70 mm of rain fell in and around Ringmer, and there was flooding at Broyleside Cottages & the Norlington Stream area of Ringmer, as well as at Rushey Green where properties were flooding from a mix of surface water and sewage. I am deeply grateful to our District Council officers who came out to help protect residents' houses, understand the problems and inform the right authorities, and distribute sandbags. Also to the Environment Agency & Fire and Rescue who worked tirelessly alongside. Some very wet tired people at the end of the day.