

# Wealden News

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from the



Conservatives

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## TACKLING ROADSIDE LITTER LOUITS

*A crackdown's underway on roadside litter, spearheaded by Wealden District Council Lead Member Ann Newton*

**W**EALDEN has introduced a new offensive against the anti-social menace of roadside litter to try and curb the problem which is spoiling our beautiful East Sussex countryside.

From last month, if litter is dropped from a vehicle, the owner can be issued with a fine of £75 without the Council needing to know who was responsible for committing the deed.

"For too long drivers and passengers travelling through the District have thrown litter out of vehicles, thinking they can speed out of reach. Not anymore," said Councillor Ann Newton, Wealden's cabinet member with responsibility for landscape protection. "We will be making full use of new powers strengthening the Environmental Protection Act to bring the culprits to justice and make them pay for the environmental damage they do. The new regulations allow councils to fine the registered keeper of the vehicle if litter is thrown from it.

"A substantial amount of Council Tax is spent each year to try to keep Wealden's verges clean, but as quickly as it is cleared, it reappears. It is



something we all notice, especially at spring time, when the evenings become lighter.

"Much of the District has benefited from litter-picking efforts of the Great Wealden Spring Clean last month. We want to keep our District looking good."

Now the council is asking everyone to help. If you see litter being tossed from a vehicle, please get in touch with the Council's Street Scene Team immediately on 01892 602735 or via our website, with details of where and when the offence occurred, what was deposited and the registration and details of the vehicle involved.

## From the Chairman



I am writing this on the afternoon after the local elections. From the perspective of the Conservative Party the results were much better than they could have been and probably much better than could have been expected at this stage in a parliament. However much the Labour Party tries to put a favourable spin on the results, they failed to break through in London and take their target councils and can give Jeremy Corbyn no confidence of ever getting the keys to Number 10. Nevertheless we must continue to work hard because we are not making sufficient headway in the Northern towns and cities.

The worst thing about socialism for me is the attitude that the state should control every aspect of our lives; we should work for the state; pay our taxes to the state, travel to our work on state-controlled transport; live in state-owned property; be taught what the state dictates; paid what the state dictates; and be increasingly regulated for "our own good" taking away any sense of responsibility for ourselves; creating an ever-growing sense of dependency.

With very best wishes,  
Helen Galley, Chairman WCCA

## UPDATE on Police Numbers By PCC Katy Bourne



*Following an article in the first issue of Wealden News (March 2018), a reader contacted the Sussex Police and Crime Commissioner, Katy Bourne, to question her statements over police numbers in the county. Here Katy replies.*

**T**HANK you for your recent letter to my office. I hope the following is helpful and provides you with the information you require. Sussex Police's 2018-22 Transformational Strategy was launched on 16 April 2018 which is why I have waited until now to respond. This is the Chief Constable's plan outlining how the additional funding from the next four year's precept increases, combined with the release of £17 million of reserves, will strengthen local policing.

Sussex Police will recruit around 200 officers each year for the next four years to cover those leaving, retiring etc. Consequently, by 2022 Sussex Police will have 200 more officers than it has today.

These new posts are in addition to protecting

the 476 police officer and staff posts the Force had planned to lose as part of its savings plans, before the additional funding for 2018/22 was known.

You can read more about the key financial issues and context for my revenue budget, capital and investment programme and precept decisions in my Medium Term Financial Plan published online at [www.sussex-pcc.gov.uk](http://www.sussex-pcc.gov.uk)

This positive change in the Force's financial position has created an exciting opportunity to strengthen policing in the areas where it is needed most. In his plan, the Chief Constable has explained how this funding will be used to increase the police presence within our local communities, enhance the Force's investigations teams and improve accessibility when people want to get in contact.

I am determined that the public will feel a difference locally as the Chief Constable directs more resources to the areas that the public tell me matters most to them.

Please be assured that investing in local policing remains a top priority for me and I will continue to explore other opportunities to strengthen local policing whilst living within our means.

Thank you for taking the time to contact me.  
Katy Bourne,  
Police and Crime Commissioner for Sussex

## Major bid to improve A27

A massive, government-funded scheme to upgrade the troublesome A27 would bring enormous benefits to many from Wealden. The improvement scheme has support from MPs across East Sussex and is designed to drastically improve journey times across the county for the many thousands of people who use the road each day.

As Chairman of the A27 Reference Group, Maria Caulfield MP (pictured with Transport Secretary Chris Grayling) has been campaigning vigorously for A27 improvements. She said, "The A27 Reference Group has been working hard on a business case to Government showing the excellent benefits that the county and our economy would see from a dual carriageway A27 from Southerham to Polegate. "This proposal, has the backing of all MPs and councils giving us a brilliant foundation to finally dual the A27 and reduce delays".



**Wealden Conservatives**

# County's Transport Needs



**J**UST a few days before the A27 announcement (see page 1), MPs from across the region raised the issue of Transport for the South-east in a debate secured by Bexhill and Battle member Huw Merriman (pictured).

Mr Merriman explained how strategic transport investment is integral to growing our economy and encouraged fellow parliamentarians to support bodies such as Transport for the South East, to allow them to secure and direct the investment needed to grow our regional economy.

He went on to describe the transport challenges and opportunities for those living within the south-east region. "It is home to 7.5 million people, a figure that will grow by 16% over the next 25 years. That accounts for 12% of the UK population and 13% of the workforce. At £200 billion per annum, our region is the second-highest contributor to the economy after London."

Mr Merriman continued: "The amount of public spending per head in the south-east is, at £8,100, the lowest in the UK—10% lower than the national average and 20% lower than London.

"Despite carrying the bulk of rail passen-

gers, the public subsidy per passenger mile on Southern and Southeastern railways is in the region of 5p to 7p, versus Northern Rail's 25p. Unlike London, we do not have an efficient mass transportation system, so 70% of those in employment travel to work mainly by car, which is similar to the UK's other regions outside London. Despite that, spending per head on local roads and local public transport is lower in the south-east than in any other English region outside London.

"As the gateway between the rest of the UK and mainland Europe, we are fortunate in having some of the major transport assets within our region. Dover and Southampton ports power the UK's European and global export market. Gatwick carries the world's busiest and most efficient runway. Heathrow, on our border, is the second busiest airport in the world. We have a high-speed railway link to the continent and more commuters journeying to London by rail than any other region."

The East Sussex MP concluded the discussion by urging the Government to continue to make investment in the region's transportation. "Keep investing in us and we will pump more than the £200 billion that we pump into the UK economy as a whole to support the other regions. We can do that only with more support and investment in our area. The Minister is also right to point out that parts of the south-east—the coastal areas, which have been represented today—are deprived. Those constituents of ours deserve the same right of access to transport to link them to other parts of the UK as other deprived parts of the UK have. We very much stand up for those constituents.

"The reality is that the south-east is the powerhouse. We have the assets: we have Gatwick, Dover and Southampton, we have Heathrow and we have the Eurostar. Those are the jewels that we want to support. I very much hope that all MPs from across the south-east will work together to make Transport for the South East a great success."

- A REPORT has been published highlighting how reducing the busiest journeys in the region by just a minute would add as much as £4.5m to the local economy.

The Economic Connectivity Review of the South East examines the cost of congestion in a region with 7.5 million residents and some of the most overcrowded road and rail routes. It calculates that slicing just 60 seconds from journeys along the main transport corridors would bring dramatic savings from increased productivity.

East Sussex County Councillor Keith Glazier, Chairman of Transport for the South East, said: "There are clear benefits for the whole country in carefully planned investment in the South East's transport network. This review shows that even modest improvements in capacity and journey time will lead to significant rises in productivity for business and in quality of life for the travelling public. Yet there is no single body to co-ordinate long-term transport strategy across the South East. Our partnership is ready to provide that."

## Downing Street 'Listening to Members'

A recent document from the Conservative Policy Forum shows how the Government is in tune with Conservative members.

Director of the Prime Minister's Policy Unit, James Marshall, published his team's response to CPF's recent discussion paper on Youth Issues which shows an improved consultation process with grass-roots supporters and better dialogue with Ministers and Departments. He welcomed the direct link being established between CPF and the policy work in Downing Street.

The CPF, of which Wealden has active Branches in both Mayfield and Wadhurst who meet regularly, is now meeting with Cabinet Ministers to identify the top policy areas where the CPF can have a real impact in policy making. If other Wealden Branches would like to know more about starting a CPF group, just contact the Office. The full Youth Feedback report is online at the CPF national website [www.conservativepolicyforum.com](http://www.conservativepolicyforum.com)



## Suffolk Diary



**PRESIDENT** of Danehill, Chelwood Gate and Nutley Branch, and former Association Secretary Sylvia Martin keeps in touch from her new home in East Anglia and her 'new life' with South Suffolk Conservatives.

John and I downsized from Chelwood Gate to Hadleigh, South Suffolk last July to be nearer our daughter Alison. Hadleigh is halfway between Ipswich and Sudbury. Suffolk is not so hilly as Sussex and the agriculture is mainly arable with crops such as sugar beet, wheat and huge fields of yellow rape seed at the moment, but with very few animals.

Hadleigh has a population of some 10K with 250 listed buildings all painted in different pale colours. The churches are all very large in the villages and were built by the woollen merchants in the 16th Century to impress the local residents as well as building all the cottages for their workers.

I am now the Secretary of the Hadleigh Conservative Branch and a committee member of the Executive of the South Suffolk Conservative Association. In November last year Michael Gove was the guest at the Association Dinner and this year, on 7 June, Philip Hammond will be the guest speaker at the 2018 Dinner. However, South Suffolk Association is not so good at fund-raising as Wonderful Wealden! James Cartledge, the MP for South Suffolk, was elected in 2015 with 53% of the vote, with an electorate of 73,268 and is the 95th largest constituency in the UK.

There are seven Parliamentary constituencies in Suffolk. James is now PPS to Jeremy Hunt, Health Minister and is 44 years-old with four young children (including twins) and lives in Assington, Suffolk -- the same village as our daughter Alison. Hadleigh Branch held a very successful Wine & Cheese Event on 26 April with James Cartledge speaking about "My Life as an MP". Lord Tebbit, whose wife was badly injured in the 1984 IRA bombing of the Brighton Grand Hotel, will be speaking at a Hadleigh Branch event on 21 September.

The Suffolk County Council has 75 seats of which 52 are Conservative Councillors, giving a majority of 23. The local district council, called Babergh District Council, has 43 seats of which 27 are Conservative, giving a majority of 16.

Best wishes, Sylvia

