

East Sussex County Council report to Mountfield Parish Assembly

1. The County Council will raise Council Tax by 4.99%. This is 2.99% which is allowed without the need for a referendum + 2% Adult Social Care precept.
2. The budget was balanced by taking £12m from reserves
3. In spite of the ASC precept, cuts have been made. Service users who are Care Act eligible will still receive a service but differently. Discretionary services are being stopped or cut severely. The cessation of day car services at Linden Court in Eastbourne have been referred back to full council for further financial analysis.
4. Many County Councillors are concerned about the Highways Contract. In spite of several million pounds being spent on potholes many of us see no visible signs of improvement. An exception is North Trade Road in Battle which has been resurfaced BUT within a very few weeks Southern Gas Networks dug it up, twice. This happened before the Lane Rental Scheme was operational. This scheme allows a Highway Authority to charge by the day for non highway work on the highway. I am constantly astonished that utilities often do not know the exact location of their services.
5. Due to Local Government Reorganisation this year's County Council elections have been cancelled. The opposition asked for £1.5 m of the £1.65 m saved from reserves by not having to pay for elections to be spent on saving the cuts to ASC. It was acknowledged that this was a short term measure but it was thought that it would pay for a breathing space while services were being redesigned for the new Unitary Authority. The request was rejected.

Kathryn Field

March 2025