

East Sussex County Council had set the 2013-2014 Budget; 0% increase

It is good news that it is the third year without increased council tax. However as a result, County continues to cut services and reduction in staff numbers.

Say Yes to Superfast Broadband

Residents and businesses throughout the county are being urged to support East Sussex County Council's *Go e-sussex* campaign by registering an interest in superfast broadband, which will help attract broadband providers to invest in our area and rural communities when the £25 million countywide project starts. Registering interest does not mean automatic subscription to the service when it's launched but saying "Yes to superfast broadband" which will directly help everyone in East Sussex who is suffering from poor broadband access and speed. Friends and neighbours in your area can be encouraged to do the same, the more the better. Registration of interest can be done online at www.goesussex.co.uk or by phone on 01273 335991 to access a paper copy of the registration form. The website also allows users to measure their current internet speed and has some frequently asked questions about broadband.

*For further information please contact Jenny Devane, East Sussex County Council.
Tel: 01273 335991 or email: broadband@eastsussex.gov.uk*

Hastings Link Road

As you know from the media, the protesters have caused a lot of obstruction to this road's construction. As a result, the protests have cost the East Sussex County Council tax payer a few million pounds.

Daniel Shing
East Sussex County Councillor for Polegate and Willingdon

Polegate and Willingdon County Councillor Stephen Shing report

BUDGET -STREETLIGHT

My concern on this year's budget is about the turning off of streetlights in our area. I must thank the good working relationship between the county officers, Town, Parish Councils and local residents about this important issue. It seems to me that county has not fully investigated and studied thoroughly the proposal. It is obvious that it does not make sense, why is East Sussex County Council converting approximately 8,000 lighting columns to part night lighting at £30 per column with a payback period of 2-4 years if it intends to discontinue street lighting by 2014-15.

As you know, our area has the highest elderly population in the county. Although they are less likely to go out or return after midnight, the concerns that affect them are much greater than that.

We are not convinced East Sussex County Council is able to achieve the saving as planned, and it is not a detailed plan. There are no guarantees that the county will continue to benefit from a low rate electricity supply.

EDF has previously indicated that they would allow a street light column to be turned off for about 2½ years, but in the third year EDF will usually insist that the Council removes the columns if there has been no energy supplied to it for 2 ½ years. The Council would then incur further costs to remove the columns (estimated at about £250-400 per column) the costs of which the County Council has estimated to be above £10 million. (Not included in the budget proposals) It does not appear that much thought has been put into the costs of removing the columns in 2015/16, what are the alternative arrangements on the important future of our streetlights and columns.

DOUBLE YELLOW LINE- POLEGATE

As I reported to you in January, East Sussex County Council highways is now formally consulting us on the draft proposal. We will study it and if we agree, the proposal's next step will be published for public consultation.

County Councillor Stephen Shing

25th February 2012