

Dear Parish Clerks,

I hope this finds you well.

Would you kindly share the information below with your parish councillors:

Parish Conference – 19 April

On Friday 19 April from 10am to 12.30pm, I shall be holding a Rural Parish Conference for all the town and parish councils within the constituency of Bexhill and Battle. The conference will be held at Great Dixter House and Gardens in Northiam. The proposed agenda is as follows:

- Encouraging biodiversity and pollinators – Fergus Garrett, Head Gardener and CEO, Great Dixter.
- Grounds and Woodland Maintenance – Rother District Council
- Sustainable and affordable homes in rural areas – Hastoe Housing Association
- Highway and drainage maintenance - East Sussex County Council are not able to attend the conference but will be providing information which I can share with you about the current highways and drainage maintenance programme for us discussion and provide feedback to them.

We are also hoping to have a presentation from local representatives of the Youth Cabinet of East Sussex on issues which are important to them.

East Sussex County Council are not able to attend the conference but will be providing information which I can share with you about the current highways and drainage maintenance programme.

I hope representatives from your parish or town council will be able to attend. We aim to ensure that there will be plenty of time for discussions. As there is limited space, places are limited to two per parish council (we will operate a waiting list for additional councillors who would like to attend).

Please would you let me have the names and email addresses of those who would like to attend. I will send them final details nearer to the date.

Rural visits

Last year, I managed to visit a number of rural parish councils in the constituency. It is always really good to meet you all, hear about the local issues you face, what you have achieved, and how I can help. This year, I am keen to get out and about to do the same and would also like to take the opportunity to meet more residents in your parishes.

I am planning a series of “Meet Your MP” events in the rural villages and towns. These generally take place over a lunchtime at a venue such as a village hall. I would very much

like the town or parish council in the areas I visit to be integral to these events. If you would like me to visit your area, please do contact my Office Manager, Frances McKenna, francesl.mckenna@parliament.uk.

I look forward to seeing many of you at Great Dixter on 19 April.

Kind regards,

Huw

Huw Merriman

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I have a weekly electronic newsletter which briefly explains what is going on in Parliament and what I am up to. If you would like to receive a copy of this newsletter please sign up here <http://eepurl.com/boKBc9>