

FOCUS ON FORUMS

Eastbourne Seniors Forum

Eastbourne
Seniors Forum

Eastbourne Seniors Forum forms part of the 7 forums in East Sussex which are all locally run but which come together under the banner of ESSA to combine strengths when presenting issues and concerns to statutory bodies such as NHS Trusts and County councils

We are the most recently formed of the 7 Forums having begun with 50 or so members in 2008 and have now grown to almost 1000 members. Perhaps rather differently to rural forums we found in the town that there were a myriad of different social, leisure and support groups for every kind of taste. We have therefore focussed our efforts on making members more aware of the wealth of things that are out there for them and on speaking up for the interests of seniors at local and county meetings of the various regional bodies.

Awareness

We do this by having a very comprehensive website, a monthly electronic newsletter and a quarterly 8 page printed newsletter mailed free to all our members. In addition to this we issue a very popular *'Directory of Leisure, Learning and Sports facilities for the over 50s'* which has over 200 entries covering everything from Archery to Yoga.

Speaking up

We are associate members or work closely with many local and National organisations including: Age UK, Age Concern Eastbourne, Eastbourne Borough Council, 3VA, East Sussex Police, Fire and Rescue Service, Trading Standards dept and Healthwatch East Sussex.

And have direct representation on: ES NHS Trust Age and Healthcare Steering Committee, Clinical Commissioning Group, Stakeholders Advisory Committee, EBC Equality and Fairness Steering Group, and many others.

The Good Life Show October 2013

We hold at least 3 Open meetings per year at which we have topical speakers and the opportunity for questions and answers. Our now well established Good Life Show held in October to link in with Older Peoples Day has become a highlight of the year attracting over 700 visitors last year with some 60 different display stands and talks and demonstrations.



Entertainment with The Sea Gypsies
at The Good Life Show

High Speed Broadband



East Sussex County Council has set out to install superfast broadband across the county by 2016. BT is the contractor to help rollout faster and more reliable broadband across the county over the next 3 years.

The £35m deal means that 99% of the county will get access to a fibre-based solution. This is excellent news for East Sussex and a step further to having this essential infrastructure installed.

With the deal now agreed Openreach, BT's local network division, will begin work planning and carrying out surveys. This will enable the company to draw up definite plans for roll-out, which it and the County Council will work on together. We know that 99% cent of the county will be able to access fibre broadband but we will not be able to tell you specific details about technology or speed for individual areas until detailed planning on the ground has been carried out. We will be keeping communities informed.

We anticipate the improved broadband service to start being available in parts of the county towards the end of the year, with more areas set to be upgraded in phases over the next three years.

With the contract signed, we still need homes and businesses to register their interest in having faster, more reliable broadband.

Registering your support does not mean you will have to subscribe to the service when it's launched, but saying **"Yes to superfast broadband"** will directly help everyone in East Sussex to receive faster, more reliable broadband.

Over 11,600 homes and businesses to date have registered their support through our 'Go e-sussex' campaign and we still need more. It only takes a few moments to complete, so please join thousands of others and ensure the County's future is a superfast one.

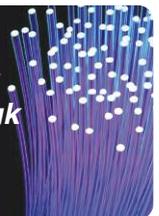
Please encourage friends and neighbours to register today. The more registrations we receive, the more attractive we become for potential broadband providers as they can see there is a demand in the County. We also want to make sure that our investment is used to provide better value for money, as this is public funding.

Jenny Devane,
Broadband Engagement Manger.

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Don't forget to keep looking at our website: www.goesussex.co.uk for regular news and updates.



Seniors' Forums Contact Details



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East Sussex County Council (ESCC) is proud to support the East Sussex Seniors Association (ESSA). However, it would like to point out that ESSA is an independent organisation and that the views stated in its newsletter will not necessarily reflect the views or policies of the County Council.