

## **James MacCleary MP report November 2025**

### **Blood Tests in Lewes**

I am pleased to announce that the ICB and Foundry Healthcare have restored Phlebotomy services for patients in Lewes. This will come as a relief to community members who had to travel to Brighton or Haywards Heath for routine tests. I would like to extend my sincerest gratitude to the ICB for listening to residents' concerns and acting to restore this vital service.

### **Remembrance Services**

Throughout this Remembrance period, I have had the honour of laying wreaths and attending Remembrance Services in Lewes, Ringmer and Polegate. I was also able to place a Remembrance Cross in Parliament's Garden of Remembrance on behalf of all of those who made the ultimate sacrifice. I offer my heartfelt thanks to all those involved in organising these services.

### **Newhaven South By-Election**

Early in October, I was happy to see Liberal Democrat Councillor Sarah Hale elected in Newhaven South with a 61% vote share in the Town Council by-election. This victory exemplifies the rejection of Reform UK's divisive politics across our constituency. I am proud of our local community's choice to elect a Councillor who will work hard for residents, and to local volunteers who made this victory possible.

### **Local Government Reform**

I am proud of how our local Town and Parish councils rallied to resist Brighton & Hove's proposals to take over Newhaven, Kingston and the C7 villages. This proposal would have been devastating for our local communities and services. I now expect the Secretary of State to decide on final proposals on reorganising our local councils and services this month, which will then go to a final consultation ahead of new legislation being made next year. I will continue to push for an outcome which keeps our communities as one united East Sussex. I have repeatedly raised this sentiment with the relevant Ministers team and will share any updates I receive.

### **Broadband and Mobile Network Coverage**

Throughout my summer tour, frustrations about local fibre optic broadband and mobile network coverage were palpable. Having written to Ministers about this issue across our communities, I am now seeking a meeting with the CEO of Building Digital UK, the organisation responsible for the fibre optic rollout across the country to challenge them on their plans.

I also recently met with a major mobile network provider to hear and raise my concerns with them on their future network plans for our area. It was a constructive meeting and I will update residents on this progress as more news follows.

## **Banking Hubs**

Following the closure of our last remaining full-service banks in towns like Lewes and Seaford, our communities are left abandoned by big banks. These closures demonstrate the willingness of big banks to push people online, making life harder for those who need local, in-person support the most.

These closures are why I am working with local councillors to protect access to cash and essential services through campaigning for banking hubs in Lewes, Seaford and Newhaven. These centres compile services from big banks to allow residents and traders to withdraw and deposit cash, get banking advice, and speak to staff face-to-face.

Such hubs have already proved successful in nearby Hailsham, aiding small towns and high streets. We are urging the relevant councils to work with LINK, the UK's main ATM network to make these hubs a reality.