

Shoppers still defy A272 advice and walk in road

SHOPPERS annoyed at a pavement being blocked have continued to risk walking along the A272 despite being advised not to.

Council officials put up big warning signs either end of the blocked section near the old Trading 4U store in South Road, Haywards Heath, after the Middy reported people were prepared to run the gauntlet of one of the busiest roads in East and West Sussex. Shoppers became angry when they discovered that no alternative walkway had been provided during work on the closed store even though the preparations on the site were within approval given to contractors. A check on the stretch this week showed that although a lot fewer people were walking in the road, some could not resist the temptation of walking along the busy A272 to avoid having to double back to crossings.

One shopper was seen even stopping to light a cigarette as he balanced on the edge of the closed pavement outside barriers with traffic roaring by.

This week traffic lights near the site remained out of service, leaving a 100-yard walk back to another controlled crossing near WH Smith.

People heading in the other direction from the Sussex Road area are still having to turn back and cross using a central island near the hazardous Sussex Roundabout, which has no controlled pedestrian crossings. Contractors have been removing asbestos and renovating the closed store for a new business to move in.

One man in his early 60s seen using the A272 said: "OK it's a silly thing to do, but people get frustrated about being messed around. I hope whatever they open there will be worth this disruption to everyone. It wasn't thought through."

Contractors have approval for the work until November 10. They have been revamping the building and clearing asbestos under strict health and safety regulations.

A spokeswoman for West Sussex County Council said: "The council has been closely monitoring the work being carried out in South Road and regular inspections have been made to ensure safety. A number of measures have been introduced to ensure pedestrians do not walk in the road. We are expecting the hazardous works to be completed over the weekend which will enable the hoarding width to be reduced. In the meantime we would urge people to take notice of the signs and follow the advice given for their own safety."

Waste site pollution warning

by DIANNE JONES
dianne.jones@sussexnewspapers.co.uk

CAMPAIGNERS against two waste processing plants that could be built at Goddards Green and Hickstead predict pollution will drift over Burgess Hill and Haywards Heath.

In a startling admission, West Sussex County Council has confirmed that it has not carried out any plume dispersion modelling on noxious emissions, even though public consultation on potential waste sites in the county ends on November 14.

According to the Met Office, the prevailing winds in southern England oscillate between the south-west and north-west for the majority of the year and potential waste processing plants with flues that could be 60metres high are "going to cause significant problems for the residents of Burgess Hill and Haywards Heath", say campaigners.

Barry Livett, a spokesman for cam-

paigners in Hickstead, said: "People living very close by, under the shadow of these units, will not necessarily be affected as much as those living several miles away."

"When the area experiences southerly winds, as it occasionally does, Cuckfield and Ansty will suffer."

In response to a Freedom of Information request from Mr Livett on why plume dispersion modelling had not been carried out for the Hickstead site, the county council said it was "because the site is being assessed in terms of its suitability for waste uses in general".

Campaigners who fear an incinerator could be built in the district have set up: 'No Haggis' - Say No to Hickstead and Goddards Green Incinerator Sites (www.no-haggis.co.uk).

The two sites in Mid Sussex are on a shortlist of county sites for various types of waste processing plants yet to be determined. Residents must send their views to the county council by November 14 and can email them to: kieran.stigant@westsussex.gov.uk

Crowds set for Veteran Car Run

THOUSANDS of spectators will line the Mid Sussex section of the London to Brighton Veteran Car Run on Sunday.

Regular watchers will be on the lookout from about 8.15am to about 3.30pm depending on their place in the route.

Popular vantage points include Cuckfield and London Road, Burgess Hill, as well as Clayton Hill, where the hill takes it toll and some cars come to grief, needing some help to continue.

But Andrew Johnson, from Lindfield, is hoping he will not be among the strugglers. He will be one of more than 500 adventurous drivers coaxing their fascinating vehicles the 60 miles from Hyde Park on Sunday morning to more than 20,000 spectators greeting them at Madeira Drive, Brighton in the afternoon.

Andrew's 1903 Eldredge will be number 309 in the gleaming line-up, which includes 17-year-old Oliver Wright starting the run at precisely 7.02am driving an 1894 Benz Velo.

The Eldredge was an American car manufactured from 1903 until 1906 by the National Sewing Machine Company of Belvidere, Illinois. It was described as a light, two-seater runabout.

The timetable for first and last sightings for the Mid Sussex section of the run is approximately:

HANDCROSS and B2115 sometime after 8.15-1.45; CUCKFIELD 8.45-2.30; BURGESS HILL, London Road, 8.55-3.00; and CLAYTON 9-3.30.



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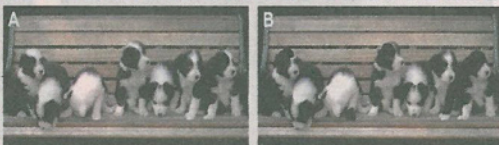


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