The Parking Working Group, set up by Hassocks Parish Council, has spent the last few months gathering more detailed information on the size and spread of the parking problems in Hassocks, and discussing how the problem should be addressed. It is clear that commuter parking and lack of car park space near the station is a major issue, particularly as other nearby towns have introduced parking controls around their railway stations, leaving Hassocks as the only location with fast easy access to London and Brighton and no parking controls. Also an increase in younger families, attracted by village life and the good schools available in Hassocks, has resulted in a steady increase in the average number of cars per household; this together with generally rising levels of car ownership have resulted in greater demand by residents for more on-street parking.

Members of the Parking Group are concerned that the local community retains control over any parking scheme that might be introduced in Hassocks. Also West Sussex County Council, who is responsible for introducing these schemes, needs evidence of support from residents. We are proposing a survey of all businesses and residents, which will start with a Business Questionnaire in January, and subject to approval of the costs involved by the Parish Council, a Residents Questionnaire in March.

Once these are analysed and summarised we will be in a strong position to seek help from WSCC and to ensure that we as a village get a degree of parking control that meets our needs.

Ian Weir (Chair of Parking Working Group)