

Cllr P Seeley (Chair), Cllr M Keller (PC Chair)  
Cllr S Shing (ESCC)  
John Wilton (WDC)  
Ian Johnson – Traffic and Safety Manager (ESCC)  
Ruby Brittle – Stakeholder & Engagement Manager (ESCC)  
Corinne Black - Customer Service Manager (ESCC)  
Jonathan Prick - ESCC  
Katrina Larkin - Parish Clerk  
Stephanie Mills - Admin Assistant



## **STRENGTHENING LOCAL RELATIONSHIPS**

### **East Dean & Friston Parish Council Liaison Meeting 16 April 2019 at 10.00am In the Small Hall, East Dean Village Hall**

#### **Minutes**

1. **Apologies for absence:** - Cllr P Hill; Tom Lee (Highway Steward); P Williamson (Tree Warden)
2. **Minutes of the meeting held on 23 October 2018:** - Previously agreed
3. **Matters arising:**
  - a) **Friston build-out** – RB explained that ESCC had experienced an unexpected resourcing issue, and highways maintenance had to be prioritised over Community Match schemes. However, the three current CM schemes could now be prioritised. The Friston build-out would be relatively simple to design and construct and this should allow the scheme to be completed well within the current financial year. An update would be supplied to the parish in time for the Annual Village Meeting on 17 May 2019 (**ACTION: RB**).
  - b) **Gulley problems at A259/Upper Street junction** – CB reported that this matter had been referred to the Drainage Team for investigation, but there had been no recent problems and the matter had therefore been passed back to the Highway Steward. PS explained that the profile of the road surface took water past the drain. There was no problem with the drain itself and therefore nothing for that team to investigate. After heavy rain water would run straight down Friston Hill and could flood the land at the bottom if the drains there were clogged, but there had been no weather to cause this for a while. If the roadside bank at the junction was highway owned, then taking it back six inches would help direct the water to the gully. CB agreed to add this to the case notes. (**ACTION: CB**)
  - c) **30 mph speed limit** – the parish council had promised residents to keep this as a standing item on the agenda. IJ reiterated his advice from the previous meeting that ESCC had proactively studied all A and B roads to identify those with the worst crash records to assess suitability for reduced speed limits or route enhancement works and the A259 did not have qualifying features (chiefly a crash record). Speed data had been monitored and did not justify a change of speed limit.
  - d) **Installation of bollards at Gilberts Drive and Gore Farm Close** – the PC needed to apply for a license as a first step, and this was still outstanding. RB explained that information about the types of licences and fees payable was available on the Network Enforcement

section of the website, and a detailed request should be sent to CB in the first instance. There was in fact a narrow footway on the west side of Gilberts Drive approaching the A259 junction from the south, and cars were parking alongside that footway as well as on the grass verge. It would not be possible to eliminate parking in this area altogether, but a couple of strategically placed bollards could protect the footway and help to keep the immediate vicinity of the junction clear. **(ACTION: KL)**

- e) **Pedestrian safety in Gilberts Drive/Birling Gap Road** – the previous meeting had discussed safety in Gilberts Drive, particularly in the area of The Fridays. IJ advised that he had asked for an assessment to be done, and an order for signage had been placed in the system. He would check on the current status of the order. The parish council should have been informed but KL was not aware of any contact (there was a new office email address: [clerk@edfparishcouncil.org.uk](mailto:clerk@edfparishcouncil.org.uk)) **(ACTION: KL to make contact with new email address)**. Councillors stated that residents and the parish council were also concerned about safety in the Birling Gap Road, particularly in the 150m stretch from Birling Manor to the Shepherds Cottage and past the SE Water station. The problem could not be resolved by signage to footpaths and bridleways as tourists were increasingly following directions from a mobile app which sent them down the road. IJ suggested that 'pedestrians in road' signage would be the answer here too, and he would investigate **(ACTION: IJ)**. In the longer term the provision of a footway could be considered but would require an extra strip of land to be purchased by ESCC Highways to make room for it. The parish council could ask the landowner for his views on this **(ACTION: KL)**
- f) **Planning application at No.1 The Fridays** – the householder had been refused permission to create parking on his own land as this would have involved removing part of a flint wall near (not within) a Conservation Area. He had gone to Appeal and the outcome was awaited. The parish council had supported the application because the property was opposite the junction of Lower Street and Gilberts Drive where yellow lines were to have been provided. ESCC had unfortunately not supported the application, though they had not objected either.
- g) **Dutch Elm Disease** – CB reported that the DED officer Antony Becvar had visited the seven sites where problems had been reported on 15 April and a report was awaited. However, it appeared that some work on infected trees on Friston Hill might be in progress already. **(ACTION: AB/CB)**
- h) **Drain clearance at Friston Pond** – this had been done. The Chair thanked ESCC for attending to this.
- i) **Broken fire hydrant cover at Windmill Lane/A259 junction** – this had been replaced promptly, which was much appreciated.

- 4. **Request bus stop at Downsview lane** - a resident had complained that No.12 buses were failing to pick up passengers at this request stop, since the sign for the stop had been knocked over in a traffic accident. Brighton & Hove Buses had wanted to replace the marker for the request stop, but East Sussex Highways had refused permission on safety grounds. This had left the bus company with a problem as there was a stop on the south side of the road which ought to be matched by one on the north side. RB advised that new legislation required there to be enough space on the pavement for people with disabilities to be able to access the facility. A

number of old bus stops had been lost as a result. PS suggested that if the stop were moved to a spot before the Downsview Lane junction (instead of just after it) it could be safely situated on a tarmac pavement. It was agreed that photos should be supplied to Highways, who would investigate the reasons for the advice given to Brighton & Hove Buses, and assess the possible change of location. JW stated that similar considerations would apply to the equivalent stop on the south side of the A259. (**ACTION: PS/KL/CB**)

5. **Ash tree obstructing footway on Gilberts Drive** – a low-growing branch across the footway had been reported under ref. 00340141. CB advised that the Highway Steward had inspected the site but found no immediate safety concerns. Therefore, no work was currently programmed.
6. **Verge Cutting in Downsview Lane** – the verge on the south side of this unadopted road was owned by Eastbourne Borough Council who had recently stopped doing a twice-yearly strim, saying it was their policy not to strim in private roads. The parish council was willing to get their contractor to add the verge to his schedule, but the first strim would now require specialist equipment due to the excessive overgrowth. EBC had been asked if their contractor could do this, and a reply was awaited. RB confirmed that ESCC's contractor (Countrymans) could be asked to do one strim for which the parish would pay, but that it was the duty of EBC as the landowner to maintain the verge in a safe condition. (**ACTION: KL to pursue enquiries**)
7. **Timing of verge cutting** – the parish council asked whether ESCC's verge cutting was done at the optimum time for the preservation of wildlife and biodiversity. RB advised that cuts in the rural zone were done purely with road safety considerations in mind, and only on a 1 metre swathe. [Note: cuts in the 30 mph zone in the parish are done by the parish's contractor].
8. **A27 Dualling** – PS asked whether this project was still 'live'. RB advised that it was, but that it was a Highways England project, not ESCC.
9. **Date, time and location of next Meeting – Tuesday 22 October 2019 at 10.00 am in East Dean Village Hall.**

*There being no further business the meeting closed at 11.00 am*