

Cllr C Lees (Chair), Cllr P Seeley (PC Chair)
 Cllr S Shing (ESCC)
 Ian Johnson – Traffic and Safety Manager (ESCC)
 Thomas Lee (Highway Steward) (ESCC)
 Corinne Black (Customer Service Manager)(ESCC Highways)
 Katrina Larkin - Parish Clerk



STRENGTHENING LOCAL RELATIONSHIPS

East Dean & Friston Parish Council Liaison Meeting 28 April 2022 at 2.00 pm in East Dean Village Hall

Minutes

1	Apologies: - Cllr P Hill (EDF parish council); Ruby Brittle (ESCC Customer Services)
2	The Minutes of the meeting held on 14 October 2021 were approved.
3	<p>Matters arising:</p> <p>a) Junction of Upper Street/Friston Hill – The Highway Steward confirmed that the Drainage Team would do a full investigation at this location to address the problem that surface run-off does not reach the drainage gullies, and considerable amounts of debris are washed down Friston Hill (A259). It is understood that Highways England will need to approve a full road closure for an evening to enable this work to be done. No date has yet been set for this work. <i>CB response - We are looking to carry out this investigation in September 2022, but are just awaiting confirmation that the road space and diversion route are available. Once the details of this investigation have been confirmed, I will update you.</i></p> <p>b) Request bus stop at Downs View Lane – the bus stop has been re-installed by Highways at no cost to the parish, and this is very much appreciated.</p> <p>c) Speedwatch signs – IJ advised that there had been a delay in the delivery of the electronic screen but that this was now imminent, and once it was received the signs could be installed without further delay. PS stated that the parish</p>

	<p>council would then want to proceed with the purchase and installation of a sign to serve two further locations on the A259. The locations should be agreed in advance at a site meeting attended by PS, IJ and the Licensing Officer <u>ACTION: KL to liaise with IJ over dates.</u></p> <p>d) Exceat Bridge – a full update from Karl Taylor had been provided to the parish council by Cllr Shing. It was noted that further considerable delays were expected.</p> <p>e) Flooding in Downs View Lane – this problem appeared to have been resolved. However, the Highway Steward would continue to monitor the site on his monthly inspections of the A259.</p> <p>f) Improved signage for Cophall Lane – this matter should be pursued with Wealden District Council <u>ACTION: KL</u></p>	
<p>4</p>	<p>Rights of Way:-</p> <p>a) Footpath 26a/27 – CB reported that the Rights of Way team had been in contact with the landowner and had agreed a scheme of remedial work to ensure public access to these rights of way should be unobstructed. The work should have been completed by the end of March. Some work had been done but fell short of the county’s requirements and negotiations with the landowner continued.</p> <p>b) Footpath 5 in Friston Forest – extensive work had been undertaken by the Rights of Way team to repair a flight of 23 steps. This had been warmly welcomed by residents who wanted to record their thanks and appreciation for work well done and in enhancement of public amenity, access and safety.</p>	
<p>5</p>	<p>Repair of Jevington Road – it was understood that the gas main works to be undertaken by SGN would now be deferred to October and would be suspended over Christmas. It was noted that the phase of work in Old Willingdon Road had been done more quickly and with less disruption than had been warned in advance on a precautionary basis, and it was hoped that the same would apply to the whole project. Residents were now satisfied that their concerns had been</p>	

	<p>heard.</p> <p>A question was raised about the timing of the re-surfacing work that should be done by Highways after completion of the gas main works. CB stated that no date had yet been set, but that some recent patching had been done at the Wannock end of the road and Highways would keep the route in a safe condition in the meantime. A question was raised as to whether the gas main replacement included the section of the Jevington Road south of the property known as Hunters Moon, down to Friston. The surface was particularly badly pitted in this section from the Butchers Hole car park to Friston Pond. The Highway Steward agreed to check this <u>ACTION: TL.</u></p> <p><i>CB response: Item 5) Jevington Road. The parish advised that they believe there are no gas works to be done on the section of road from Hunters Moon to Friston and would therefore like to know if works on this section of work could be done in the summer of 2022 - Unfortunately, due to the SGN works taking place on different sections of Jevington Road, we are unable to carry a full inspection of Jevington Road to determine the full extent of works that we will need to carry out until the gas work is completed. I will respond to John to advised shortly, but due to this we are unable to carry out our works until all the gas works are completed. At present the final phase of SGN work is scheduled for completion on 3 March 2023.</i></p> <p>A further concern was that after the gas main work had been done, plus some interim patching, certain sections of the road might technically no longer qualify for resurfacing. Councillors emphasized that complete resurfacing was long overdue and should be a priority.</p>	
6	<p>Request for additional signing at the Jevington Road/Crowlink crossover Ref. 10361821 - the Traffic and Safety Manager kindly agreed to accompany CL/PS on a site visit following the meeting.</p>	
7	<p>Wide grass verge outside The Fridays – there was a recurring problem of some residents using this area (which had no dropped kerbs) for parking. The grassy area was owned by Wealden District Council (apart from a strip 1m from the carriageway of Gilberts Drive). IJ advised that this was primarily a matter for Wealden District Council <u>ACTION: KL to refer to WDC.</u> ESCC Highways had a policy of not</p>	

	<p>creating laybys, and was unlikely to approve any parking scheme that would increase the likelihood of vehicles entering the highway in reverse.</p>	
8	<p>Repainting of yellow lines in Upper Street – the parish council requested that this be done, as the present painting was beginning to fade. The Highway Steward advised that this was in hand.</p>	
9	<p>Village car park – Wealden District Council should be requested to lay more gravel as some areas were beginning to puddle badly ACTION: KL to refer to WDC. In addition, some Holm Oaks overhanging Footpath 24 (across the Horsefield) had been reported by a resident as in need of cutting back. The Rights of Way team had inspected the site and did not consider that remedial action was warranted.</p>	
10	<p>Public Spaces Protection Order – it was noted that in order to combat anti-social driving on the Beachy Head/ Birling Gap Road. Eastbourne Borough Council was consulting on a PSPO, and the parish council supported this initiative. Councillors asked whether it would be possible to extend the Order into East Dean. IJ advised that the Order would stop at the Eastbourne boundary, i.e. it would cover most of the Beachy Head Road, but not Birling Gap. Wealden District Council could be requested to make a separate Order to cover Birling Gap.</p>	
11	<p>Highways update – statistics on the number and type of enquires/action dealt with locally in the last accounting period were provided by CB at the meeting:</p> <p>Open cases – 2 in total</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 hedges • 1 signs <p>Safety repairs over the last 6 months – 27 in total</p>	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 9 road/pavement • 3 emergency • 5 drainage • 3 signs • 6 vegetation • 1 streetlight <p>East Sussex Highways have also done patch repairs on Upper Street, Seaford Road and Jevington Road.</p>	
13	<p>AOB</p> <p>a) Patching on East Dean Road – CB stated that a round of works was planned though no date had yet been set.</p> <p>b) Accidents – PS reported that there had been a number of recent accidents on the A259, including two at Friston Pond and one at Seven Sisters.</p> <p>c) Warning Signs on Birling Gap Road – IJ stated that warning signs would be installed around the double bends at Shepherds Cottage. The installation of marker posts had been considered but would not be feasible due to width of the existing verges.</p> <p>d) Parking problems – SS enquired whether the high numbers of visiting motorists experienced during the lockdowns had eased with the lifting of Covid restrictions on other travel. Parish councillors advised that there had been no noticeable change but that the situation would be watched over the summer.</p>	
14	<p>Next meeting – Tuesday 8th November 2022 at 10.00 am in East Dean Village Hall</p>	