

## Strengthening Local Relationships (SLR) meeting 30.9.24

### MINUTES

Present: Steph Quinell – ESCC Highway Steward, East Dean etc.  
Wayne Gibbs – ESCC Stakeholder Liaison Officer, Balfour Beatty  
Jo Read – ESCC Road Safety  
Cllr Phill Hill – ED&FPC, Chair of SLR meetings  
Cllr Stephen Shing – County Councillor  
Cllr Paul Seeley – ED&FPC  
Cllr Jonathan Greenway – ED&FPC

In Attendance: Fiona Chalk – Clerk & RFO ED&FPC

1.	<b>Welcome, apologies for absence and introductions</b> Introductions were made. Cllr Hill advised he is the Chair of Right of Way (RoW) group in the village	
2.	<b>Draft minutes of 8<sup>th</sup> November 2022</b> Matters Arising: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Drainage junction of Upper Street &amp; Friston Hill – see later on the agenda</li> <li>• Exceat Bridge – see later on the agenda</li> <li>• Jevington Road – large pothole by Butchershole Car Park</li> </ul>	Highways to carry out repair
3.	<b>Notes of 9<sup>th</sup> October 2023 meeting</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Footpath 7 – Old Willingdon Road. Is it ESCC responsibility and if so, can it be put onto the maintenance schedule? ESCC advised that it is a bridleway, but note adopted by Highways, so will be RoW. They will take it away to action this.</li> <li>• Footpath 25 – Could it be confirmed if cycling is permitted on this path by ESCC. It is split between Highways (top half) and RoW (lower half) – RoW to be consulted on this.</li> </ul>	RoW team to confirm ownership and add to maintenance schedule if applicable  Highways/RoW team to advise if cycling permitted
4.	<b>FP 28 Warren Lane to Friston Hill</b> This is not an adopted highway. It does cross the A259 (Friston Hill) – and due to lack of visibility on exiting, it is very dangerous, so can it be shut? ESCC advised it is classed as a Bridleway. PC advised it is very rarely used and they have put up signs – Extremely Dangerous – use with caution!	RoW team will look into the possibility of closing this footpath

5.	<p><b>FP Hillside onto A259 Friston Hill</b></p> <p>This footpath is a dead end onto the road - there is nothing the other side of the road for people to cross. It is extremely dangerous as people end up on the road. A sign has been put up by the PC saying, Closed. ESCC will look at this, although no ownership is showing.</p>	<p>Highways/RoW to advise on the feasibility of closing this footpath.</p>
6.	<p><b>FP 25 collapse</b></p> <p>Someone has fallen off this footpath and into the bushes, due to the collapse of the path, and it is believed that they have put a claim into ESCC. ESCC Highways have been and marked this, but action does need to be taken to prevent further accidents. ESCC advised it is unlikely any immediate remedial action can be taken, but a report has been submitted asking for it to be built back up. It will be monitored by ESCC. If it deteriorates, then immediate action will be taken. If PC takes action in the interim i.e. put up railings, ESCC highways permission would be required. ESCC will come back with the cost of permission. PC asked if match funding could be available for repairs. The PC had considered if it could be made a cycle route, but cycling routes with footpaths require 3m wide, which is not feasible currently.</p>	<p>Highways to advise on cost of permission and whether match funding solutions are feasible/available</p>
7.	<p><b>Friston Hill Drainage / Upper Street</b></p> <p>ESCC Highways were up there last week, to cut back vegetation and clear gullies. There are 2 gullies which block up really quickly as there is no other drainage on Friston Hill, so the water and debris runs straight across Upper Street and on the footpath, covering it with chalk, stones, leaves etc. Previously, ESCC use to clear the channels under the road through pipework, but these have either gone or are blocked.</p> <p>PC stated that ideally a bund parallel with the side of the road for about 10 ft would prevent this flooding.</p>	<p>Highways to revisit and jet clean the drains and gullies. Drainage will be contacted to investigate further.</p>
8.	<p><b>Defibrillator power for Friston Bus Stop</b></p> <p>These are throughout the village. Is there a possibility to pick up power from roadside (street light) to put power to the Bus Stop at Friston Pond on the North side of the A259. Southern Water have let PC get power on the Estate from their supply. The power is needed to provide ambient temperature for the casing of the defib – doesn't need to be on fulltime.</p>	<p>Street Lighting to be contacted.</p>
9.	<p><b>Exceat Bridge update</b></p> <p>ESCC will provide an update when it is available. The Compulsory Purchase means a public enquiry is taking place this Autumn.</p>	<p>Highways to keep the PC updated on progress</p>
10.	<p><b>Gilberts Drive drainage onto pond</b></p> <p>The pond is behind the bus shelter, and belongs to the Estate, with discussions ongoing to re-instate. It takes all the drainage from A259 into the pond. There is a gully in Gilberts Drive which also used to drain into the pond, but currently floods. The drainage needs clearing out through to the pond.</p>	<p>Highways to investigate and clear drains</p>

11.	<p><b>Ash dieback on trees Upper Street/Lower Street</b>  ESCC has emailed the Tree Inspector, and he will come down to site. He will look at the trees on the adopted area. From Friston Pond towards Seaford, there are a lot of trees with Ash Dieback. On the right-hand side, the Forestry Commission have dealt with theirs. On the left-hand side, the ESCC owned area needs attention. The trees at Friston Pond have been dealt with by the PC. Some came down last winter. If not ESCC land, then enquiries will need to be made to the Land Registry. If there is an immediate concern, ESCC may chase a private owner.  Cllr Jonathan Greenway advised he is the PC tree officer and would like to meet with the Tree Inspector.</p>	<p>Highways to advise on land ownership.</p> <p>FC to pass Cllr Greenway's email to ESCC to facilitate the meeting</p>
12.	<p><b>Responsibilities for weed control on footpaths and highways</b>  There is a difference between highways, footpaths, and RoW. ESCC usually spray rather than cutback or strimming.  Residents do tend to raise issues on footpaths. The PC does ask residents to cut back their own hedges.</p>	<p>ESCC to notify PC who RoW Officer is. Invite them to the next meeting.</p>
13.	<p><b>AOB</b>  40mph limit from Jevington onto A259, it only becomes 40mph by the junction. Can we have the 40mph signs move further down onto Jevington Road. It is dangerous trying to pull out of the junction. It would be good to have the sign moved by way of a Traffic Order to back by the Welcome, sign at the edge of the village. There are plenty of sites to move the 40mph sign to. A community match scheme is most likely.</p> <p>There were cameras put up recently on the 40mph for a traffic survey. The PC would like to be informed of what this was and any feedback from this. It would be the Transport Monitoring Team that would monitor traffic movement.</p> <p>Mark Weston at ESCC has been in dialogue with Cllr Seeley on 20mph reductions on Upper/Lower Street and the private estate. He arranged for surveys and gave feedback. Further consultation was to take place. PC would like an update so they can budget if necessary.</p> <p>On Gilbert Road, WDC have facilitated the installation of car electric charging points by UK Power Networks. The re-instatement of the road has been poor – it has dropped and is now a gully across the whole road.</p> <p>Black Robin Farm development as new gateway to SDNP has a knock-on effect for the village for traffic, parking, etc. The PC have had no consultation from Eastbourne and would like to be aware of what is being planned so they can be involved.</p>	<p>Highways to advise on the suitability of this action and any process to action.</p> <p>Highways to have the Transport Monitoring Team advise who undertook this survey and if possible, the findings of it.</p> <p>Highways to ask MW to provide an update on the current position.</p> <p>Highways to have this rectified.</p> <p>ESCC to advise if they have been consulted and whether highways implications for East</p>

	<p>ESCC advised no major highway works are planned for the immediate future.</p>	<p>Dean were considered.</p>
<p>14.</p>	<p><b>Date of next meeting</b></p> <p>Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> February 2025 at 10 am at East Dean Village Hall.</p> <p>ESCC to arrange a site visit with Wayne, Steph, a representative from RoW, and Cllrs to visit the footpath sites discussed in this meeting to have a fuller understanding of the issues.</p> <p>A separate meeting with ESCC Tree Inspector and Cllr Greenway to be arranged by ESCC.</p>	<p>ESCC to arrange a site visit with Wayne, Steph, a representative from RoW, and Cllrs to visit the footpath sites discussed in this meeting to have a fuller understanding of the issues.</p> <p>A separate meeting with ESCC Tree Inspector and Cllr Greenway to be arranged by ESCC.</p>