

STRENGTHENING LOCAL RELATIONSHIPS

East Dean & Friston Parish Council Liaison Meeting 11 October 2013 at 10.00am On site at Friston Church, A259, and in the Small Hall

Minutes

1. Apologies for absence: Cllr S Fuller
2. The minutes of the meeting held on 16 January 2013 were confirmed as a correct record.
3. **Footpath connecting the end of Old Willingdon Road to the mouth of Windmill Lane.** The County Council had been requested to consider either providing a highway footway in this dangerous location, or consenting to a path being provided by the Parish. The path should enable children (and adults) to walk this route safely, going to the bus stop or to the church or post box. The proposal was discussed on site. IJ agreed that ESCC would formally assess the eligibility of the location for county funding, and would supply a copy of the assessment form to the parish for information.
ACTION: Ian Johnson.
4. **Reclassification of Birling Gap Road as a B road:** residents were concerned that as this road was a bus route it should routinely come higher on maintenance schedules than it actually did. It was also requested that the 30 mph speed limit should be painted on the road, and that there should be white markings to separate the lanes on the acute bends near Birling Manor. Highways agreed to investigate and report. **ACTION: Annabel Harvey.**
5. **Footpath 25:** the Parish Council had requested permission to put up a new sign on the highway verge at the junction of Upper Street and the A259 to direct cyclists up the twitten and away from Friston Hill. This would require the consent of the landowner, but the landowner was unknown. The twitten was tarmacked for its full length, and this was done by the highway authority over 20 years ago. The bottom section was classified as a Right of Way, and the upper section running alongside the A259 was a highway footway. Sophie Coleman reported that a Land Registry search showed that the tarmac path was unregistered. The Parish Council should put up a sign at each end for 28 days asking for anyone with an interest to come forward. If no objections were received, the county council would see no reason to oppose the provision of the sign,

or its placement on the highway verge. **ACTION: Parish Council to put up a sign.** On a separate matter, the parish requested that this footpath be cut more than once per season, which was inadequate for keeping it open. **ACTION: Sophie Coleman to ask the Maintenance Team for an extra cut next year.**

6. **Untaxed vehicles on unadopted roads with public access:** a vehicle had been abandoned on the Downlands Estate, and the PCSO had advised that he had no power to remove it because it was on a road which – though open to public access – was unadopted. The parish council requested advice as to what, if anything, could be done. Cllr Shing advised that Wealden District Council should deal with abandoned vehicles. **ACTION: Clerk to make enquiries of WDC.**
7. **Access to right of way at end of Old Willingdon Road:** parish councillors reported that where the road became a track (Footpath 7) unauthorized vehicles had obtained access and some fly tipping had occurred. This was a major walking and cycling route and a barrier was needed to prevent any recurrence. The ownership of the location for the barrier must be established. It was suggested that Southern Water should be consulted. **ACTION: the Clerk.**
8. **Matters arising from the previous meeting:** an Action Log arising from the previous meeting (16 January 2013) had been circulated. A number of matters had been completed, and particular thanks were due to the County rights of Way team which had rebuilt footpath 18 to an excellent standard, with new steps. The following matters were ongoing:
 - Eastbourne Airborne – a meeting of all relevant authorities would be held on 5 November 2013.
 - Derestriction signs on Downlands Estate – Residents views were being sought in the Village Survey 2013. ESCC suggested data collection over 7 days to see what actual speeds were being reached on the Estate. **ACTION: Clerk to contact Penelope Bentley at County Hall.**
 - Verges in Lower Street – some verges were still being missed by the ESCC contractor. **ACTION: AH to advise contractor to include them.**
 - Fence on Went Way – ESCC confirmed that the fence was not on a highway verge.
 - Additional yellow lines – ESCC confirmed these works are gradually moving up the list.
 - Overgrown highway verge near Shepherds Cottage – the new Steward would inspect the area. **ACTION: AB.** In the same area, on the pumping station side of the road, flooding could occur. **ACTION: AB to add the location to the contractors flood spot list.**
 - Problems during planned maintenance – during the top dressing of the A259 near Friston Pond, problems had recurred with gatemen not being briefed that there was no alternative way through the Downlands Estate. **ACTION: County to note for permanent future reference.**

- Trees of south side of A259 Eastbourne Road – no action taken to prune trees, possibly because of bat roosts. **ACTION: Passed to James Newmarch** (he has contacted the owner requesting the trees be pruned).

9. **Any other business:** a broken step had recently been reported on Footpath 32. ESCC Rights of Way team would schedule a repair.
10. **Date and time of next meeting:** - to be confirmed.