

STRENGTHENING LOCAL RELATIONSHIPS

East Dean & Friston Parish Council Liaison Meeting 21 April 2015 at 10.00am In the Small Hall, East Dean Village Hall

Draft Minutes

1. Apologies for absence: Cllr S Shing; Sophie Coleman (ESCC Rights of Way)
2. The Minutes of the meeting held on 14 October 2014 were amended on page 2, 'Traffic Control at Exceat Bridge', last sentence, to clarify that ESCC could not intervene in the matter of temporary traffic controls at the bridge during the Airborne event *because the bridge was not on the diversionary route for the event*. Subject to this correction, the minutes were confirmed as a correct record.
 - (a) **Footpath connecting the end of Old Willingdon Road to the mouth of Windmill Lane AND Friston bus stop and crossing** – Sarah Valentine had commented on the parish's proposals, as requested, and explained that they did not meet ESCC's feasibility criteria. Moreover, South East Water, which was to have provided a substantial part of the funding for the scheme, had said that it could not proceed at present due to financial constraints. However, the need for a safe crossing had become more pressing now that all evening church services in the parish had been moved from East Dean to Friston. Councillors therefore re-opened the possibility of proceeding with a more limited scheme which would leave the bus stop where it was, but provide a safer crossing. ESCC had assessed the location previously and had concluded that the only viable improvement would be to realign the kerb by the bus stop on the south side of the A259, and build it out, which would have the effect of both narrowing the crossing at that point, and deterring motorists from cutting through the bus stop bay and endangering pedestrians. ESCC would require this scheme to be funded through Community Match. It was agreed that the parish should contact Sarah Valentine to request a feasibility design. The parish would supply a sketch of the proposal using the Parish Online mapping facility. ESCC

might help to resource the initial feasibility design, but would thereafter require the parish to pay all fees arising from the project, including the fee for the compulsory, independent design and safety audit. **ACTION: PH/KL.**

- (b) **Yellow lines** – the parish had not moved up the list of places where additional lines were to be supplied. The parish contended that there was a serious problem especially for Kier waste trucks squeezing through Upper Street or having to reverse and go on a long diversion to access certain properties. In Lower Street at the junction with Gilberts Drive the problem was that cars parking around the junction caused a loss of visibility. However, for ESCC neither site was a priority. The parish could increase the priority if it were willing to provide match funding. The cost of the project would be approx. £1,500, most of which would be the administrative cost of making the necessary traffic order. Formal notices would have to be advertised, and objections could be received from any source. All objections would have to be reported to the ESCC Planning Committee (at an additional cost), to establish whether or not the objections could be overcome. More than one objection could kill the proposal. Councillors noted the problem. The expense of the scheme might not be justified bearing in mind that there was no policing of the yellow lines.
- (c) **Traffic control at Exceat Bridge** – Councillors noted that ESCC could not require temporary traffic control to be provided at Exceat Bridge during Airborne because the bridge was not the diversionary route. It was also noted that Norman Baker had promised to intervene if re-elected. The parish council had also asked SALC to raise the matter at their next six-monthly meeting with the Chief Constable.
- (d) **Parish name signs** – ESCC had agreed to supply design and costing information for a new sign on the Jevington Road, to be paid for by the parish council; and to supply a new village sign on the A259 entering Friston, as agreed at the previous meeting. No further information was yet available, but the task was on a schedule which officers were working through.
- (e) **Safety of cyclists at Friston Hill** – the parish had been unable to proceed with the scheme to route cyclists up The Twitten (Footpath 25) as the minimum width for dual use by cyclists and pedestrians was 1.8 metres, which could not be achieved on the upper half of the path. Mr Johnson had investigated whether any approved highway signage existed to warn cyclists of the dangers, but had found nothing suitable.
- (f) **Flooding on A259 due to blocked gullies** – the Highway Steward reported that all the gullies had now been cleared. Councillors advised that the gullies needed to be

cleared on a regular cycle, before and during the winter, because large quantities of debris were routinely washed down Friston Hill, and affected the gullies at the corner of Upper Street as well as those at the bottom of the hill, draining into East Dean pond. It was not clear whether the clearance work required road closure or not. The Highway Steward would make enquiries and report back. **ACTION: TL.**

3. **Rights of Way Matters:**

(a) **Paths in Friston Forest** – the majority of the maintenance work notified to ESCC had been done, and a new finger post had been installed on the Jevington Road. The parish council thanked ESCC for this. However, one of the older posts which had been cleared of ivy still wobbled, and though not dangerous it should be monitored. It was agreed that the photo of this post should be re-sent to ESCC Rights of Way with a location map to clarify which one it was. **ACTION: KL/FR.**

(b) **The Twitten** – the posts and rails at the southern end were in need of repair and maintenance; some of the posts were rotten, and the whole needed repainting. It was agreed that photos should be sent to ESCC Rights of Way so that these items could be scheduled for maintenance. **ACTION: PH/KL.** The parish council's contractor had recently strimmed the Highways portion of the Twitten, as the parish had offered to take over the maintenance in return for an annual payment from ESCC.

4. **Verge Cutting:-** the first cut of the season had been done by ESCC, but the parish had obtained tenders for taking over the verge cutting, and needed to conclude negotiations with ESCC to enable the transfer of the service provision to the parish, with funding. **ACTION: KL to send the contractor's insurance and health and safety information to Emily See.** The first cut by ESCC has not gone well: the contractor had used a small sit on mower to cut the verges, and where cars were parked they had left the grass and parsley. It looked poor, especially in Upper Street. However, it was explained that ESCC's contractor could not come back and strim the missed areas. It was noted that ESCC currently mowed the whole of the grassed area outside The Fridays, part of which belonged to Wealden District Council. It was not clear whether WDC paid any financial contribution to ESCC for this service. If they did, the sum should be transferred to the parish. **ACTION: KL to ask Emily See.**

5. **Construction & Planned Maintenance**

Contact: Simon Marchant, Team Manager 0345 6080193

Road No	Location from - to	Work Type	Traffic Management	Start Date	Duration	Finish Date
A259T	Friston Hill	C/W Resurfacing	Road Closure	12/5/15	4 days	15/5/15

The resurfacing would run from Upper Street to Downs View Road, and from Jevington Road westwards for approx. 400 meters. [*Information from Highways Liaison Team*]. Councillors explained that 'No access' signage was essential to try to prevent traffic using Hillside on the Downlands Estate as a through road. It was also noted that the surface of the A259 needed renewing near the Micheldene Road junction.

6. Any other business

- a) **Ownership of fingerposts:** - Mr Johnson confirmed that white wooden fingerposts were owned by ESCC but that parishes needed to contribute significantly to their maintenance if they wanted to keep them. ESCC would otherwise replace them with modern signs and/or remove them on A and B roads, because the small lettering made them technically redundant by modern highway standards. However, ESCC now provided a small pot of funding annually from which parishes could apply for match funding for up to two fingerposts in each financial year, on a first come first served basis. Enquiries should be directed to Emily See. **ACTION: KL to contact Emily See.**
- b) **Replacement of Elm Trees:** - the parish had sourced some replacement trees which were disease-resistant, and sought to provide new locations for planting them. The verge in Gilberts Drive could be a suitable location, subject to the approval of ESCC, as the verge was highway land. Councillors were advised to contact James Newmarch, ESCC's Forestry Officer, to request a meeting. **ACTION: KL.**

7. Date and time of next meeting: - Tuesday 6th October 2015 at 10.00 am in East Dean Village Hall