

STRENGTHENING LOCAL RELATIONSHIPS

East Dean & Friston Parish Council Liaison Meeting 06 October 2015 at 10.00am In the Small Hall, East Dean Village Hall

Draft Minutes

1. Apologies for absence: Tom Lee – Highway Steward.
2. The Minutes of the meeting held on 21 April 2015 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by Cllr Hill.
3. Matters arising:
 - a) **Friston bus stop and crossing** – neither the OS maps nor the aerial photograph on Parish Online correspond to what is actually there on the ground. The two bus shelters on the north and south sides of the A259 are not shown, and the grassy island behind the bus layby on the south side is significantly smaller than it appears on the maps or photograph, and allows space for cars to undertake using the bus layby. This leaves pedestrians trying to cross the road between the two bus shelters dangerously exposed on a blind bend. Cllr Hill tabled a plan based on OS maps at a scale of 1:200 and 1:150 [see Annex A for 1:200 map], illustrating the actual size of the island, and showing in cross-hatching the place where it is proposed to create a build-out with kerb edging to make it safer for pedestrians to cross between the two bus shelters. It was agreed that this map should now be submitted to Sarah Valentine with a request for match funding subject to feasibility. It would be the responsibility of the parish council to carry out the necessary consultations.

- b) **Yellow lines** – Mr Johnson confirmed that the parish had moved up in the schedule for providing additional yellow lines (in Upper Street and at the junction of the A259 and Gilberts Drive).
- c) **Traffic control at Exceat Bridge** – County Cllr S Shing reported that there had been a mixed response to his recent consultation though the results were still being analysed. Parish councillors emphasized that the bigger issue locally was not permanent control at the Bridge (it was understood that this could cause a hazard for eastbound traffic approaching round a bend), but temporary control during the annual Airbourne event. This was perfectly feasible, as had been shown in February 2015 when the police had applied controls at the Bridge to cope with the closure of the A27. The police had confirmed that there could be a safety issue if the A259 were blocked. The Airbourne event could be even bigger in 2016 due to the possible cancellation of the Shoreham air show. However, Eastbourne Borough Council had refused to spend money on traffic controls outside their area, and could not be obliged to do so as there was no admission charge for the event. They would only operate event signage within the Borough, and would try to direct motorists to a range of alternative routes, and keep event-goers in the town for a longer period in the evening to stagger departure times. Parish representatives were concerned that this was not a sufficient solution in the age of the satnav. **ACTION: SS to arrange a meeting with Graeme Lake, Cllr Hill and the Sussex Police.**
- d) **Parish name signs** – Mr Johnson reported that the replacement village name sign (traditional style) to be installed on the Jevington Road; and the replacement village sign (new style) to be installed on the A259 entering Friston, had both been ordered, and would both be installed at the expense of ESCC. This was much appreciated, as the parish had originally expected to pay for the traditional sign. Installation would be fitted into the contractor's work schedule.
- e) **Flooding on A259/Upper Street junction** – Mr Johnson reported that ESCC's maintenance plan was to clear the drains on Friston Hill every 12 months, and on Eastbourne Hill every 6 months (the dividing line was the junction of the A259 and Micheldene Road). This was an increased frequency, but the system itself could not be altered. The specialist drainage team had been booked to clear three blocked pipes which were preventing the gulley system working. It was suggested that Wealden district council be asked to increase the frequency of street sweeping. Councillors reported that the pedestrian crossing on the north side of the A259 at the bottom of Eastbourne Hill had sunk and was lower than the nearest gulley so the tegular paving at the crossing point was a near-

permanent puddle, forcing pedestrians to cross from the grass verge. This was a safety issue. **ACTION: IJ to investigate remedial action.**

- f) **Paths in Friston Forest** – the wobbly signpost reported on Footpath 6 between the Old Willingdon Road and the Jevington Road would be repaired, but ESCC Rights of Way had 10,000 posts to maintain, of which 1,000 needed replacing. The work would be done when a higher priority job was scheduled in the area.
- g) **The Twitten (Footpath 25)** – no further update. The concrete posts and rails at the entrance to the Twitten from Upper Street are sound and the parish will repaint them when a new maintenance person has been found.
- h) **Fingerposts** – the parish would like to apply for match funding for the repair of two fingerposts in 2016. Those in most urgent need of attention are in Lower Street at the Gilberts Drive junction and on the A259/Gilberts Drive. **ACTION: KL to send a quote and photographs of the damage to Emily See** [or email ete.highwayassetmanagement@eastsussex.gov.uk].
- i) **Replacement of Elm trees** – James Newmarch had completed a utility survey to see whether the planting of trees on the verge in Gilberts Drive would disturb any utility services. He had identified suitable locations for 10 trees on the eastern verge from The Rectory down to Churchfields, missing Little Garth where the main sewer underlay the verge. Power lines would also be avoided. [See map, Annex B]. ESCC Highways were requested to license the holes, and would check the visibility at access points, the species and variety of saplings, and the timing of the planting (scheduled for November – National Plant a Tree month). **ACTION: IJ to deal with the application for licences.**

4. Verge cutting

A helpful offer had been received from ESCC to split the verge cutting in 2016, and let the parish maintain the verges in the urban zone (see map Annex C), whilst the county's contractor would continue to maintain the verges in the rural zone. ESCC would contribute £868.20 to the parish for a minimum of five cuts in the urban zone. The parish council still had two queries:

- Would the parish's contractor still be obliged to obtain the Unit 10 supervisory qualification for highway signage, if his operatives were only working in the urban zone?

- What would ESCC like to be done with the payment of £1,499.54 made to the parish for 2015, which has remained unused? Should it be retained for use in 2016?

These queries have been emailed to Emily See. **ACTION: ESCC Asset Management Team.**

4. **Warning sign on Birling Gap Road**

A resident of Birling Gap had complained to the parish council that riders and walkers on Bridleway 13C had to go into the Birling Gap Road on the bend near the National Trust centre, in order to go to and from Footpaths 29a and 3. It was suggested that a warning sign or signs be installed for motorists. **ACTION: IJ to add to signage list, provided there is enough verge to put the signs on.**

5. **Flooding on Birling Gap Road**

Recently after heavy rain flooding had occurred on the Birling Gap Road east of the entrance to the main National Trust car park, and covering 75% of the carriageway. This road is a bus route. The three gullies at the entrance to the NT car park had recently been removed from ESCC's asset list following the corrected demarcation of the highway verge. **ACTION: IJ to notify the Highway Steward; KL to notify the National Trust.**

6. **Cycle sign on Lower Street**

A damaged sign had been reported on Fix My Street. Mr Johnson reported that a replacement had been ordered. Councillors agreed that the FixMyStreet system was working well in the parish.

7. **Construction & Planned Maintenance**

Contact: Simon Marchant, Team Manager 0345 6080193

Road No	Location from - to	Work Type	Traffic Management	Start Date	Duration	Finish Date
No planned works						

8. **Any other business – no other matters.**

Councillor Hill on behalf of the parish thanked the ESCC representatives for their help and advice. The Liaison meetings were felt to be valuable.

9. **Date and time of next meeting – Tuesday 19th April 2016 at 10.00 am in the Small Hall of the Village Hall, East Dean.**

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 11.07 am.

Note – attachments not included on this version of the minutes

DRAFT