

Councillor Phil Hill, Vice Chair, EDFPC
Councillor I Haydock, EDFPC
Councillor M Keller, EDFPC
Katrina Larkin, Parish Clerk
Councillor Stephen Shing
Ian Johnson – Principal Traffic and Safety Officer
Thomas Geoffrey Lee – Highway Steward



STRENGTHENING LOCAL RELATIONSHIPS

East Dean & Friston Parish Council Liaison Meeting 19 April 2016 at 10.00am In the Small Hall, East Dean Village Hall

Draft Minutes

1. Apologies for absence: - None
2. The Minutes of the meeting held on 6 October 2015 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by Cllr Hill.
3. Matters arising:
 - (a) **Friston bus stop and crossing** – the parish council had been reluctant to incur substantial expenditure on fees for a feasibility/safety assessment in case the crossing project did not then go ahead. IJ advised that the cost of the initial assessment would be split between the county and the parish through match funding, while the cost of the detailed design would be greater and would be borne by the parish. It might therefore be worth taking the project a step further with match funding. There was no financially viable alternative to the present modest proposals for a build-out at the bus layby on the south side of the A259; if this were not pursued, the crossing must remain as now. A councillor had suggested that the build-out could cause a new problem in that Seaford-bound traffic would be prevented from undertaking cars waiting to go towards Jevington (so queues could back up on Friston Hill), while cars pulling out of Windmill Lane up to the junction (blocking traffic from Jevington) would be waiting for any cars turning towards the Estate and/or Jevington. However, the feasibility assessment should uncover any such problems. It was agreed to contact Sarah Valentine to arrange a meeting on site. New arrangements would be made for match funding following the changeover of ESCC contractor from Kier to Costain on 1st May 2016. **ACTION: KL/PH.**

- (b) **Yellow lines** – an update was requested on the timescale for providing additional yellow lines. Match finding was not available for this work. IJ stated that ESCC hoped to be able to do more road safety schemes as an additional member of staff had recently been allocated to this work. However, the police in Wealden gave parking offences low priority unless there was a safety issue (parking offences had been decriminalized in some districts but not in Wealden). ESCC was prepared to give the Gilberts Drive lines high priority because there were safety issues at junctions, and yellow lines at junctions were normally respected. However, those in Upper Street would have low priority. The parish council should be asked to consider having a simple white line (4-5 meters long) painted at the edge of the highway at the pinch point by the Thai restaurant. This had proved successful elsewhere. **ACTION: KL to add to PC agenda.**
- (c) **Traffic control at Exceat Bridge** – Cllr Shing confirmed that controls would be in place for the 2016 Airbourne event, as agreed with the parish council, ESCC and Eastbourne Borough Council. Data on traffic movements would be gathered and reviewed after the event. This was agreed to be a very positive development.
- (d) **Parish name signs** – the two new signs on the Jevington Road and on the A259 entering Friston had been supplied and installed by ESCC. Councillors thanked ESCC for doing this work at no cost to the parish.
- (e) **Flooding on A259** – problems continued.
- Upper Street drains – Cllr Hill had observed that run-off from Friston Hill simply did not reach the existing drains, which were not well placed. **ACTION: TGL to investigate.**
 - Repair marks on wrong side of flooded A259 crossing – Cllr Hill reported that the road had been marked for repair on the south side, but the flooding was actually on the north side. As a temporary measure he had put gravel on the north side to raise the paved area higher than the adjacent manhole. This was a good temporary solution but the paving needed to be raised permanently. **ACTION: TGL to advise the Planning team.**
 - East Dean Pond – the three road gullies at the bottom of Friston Hill and Eastbourne Hill were supposed to drain run-off into the pond but the system had not been operating properly. The pipes were blocked and the pond had become clogged and required dredging. This caused water to overflow into the garden of the nearby cottage. There seemed to be a dispute as to who was responsible. TGL explained that the pipes had been cleared by ESCC and that the pond was the responsibility of the landowner, but that if the level of the water rose above the level of the outfall pipes, then ESCC could

intervene. Currently the level of the pond was below the outfall pipes, and ESCC had written to the landowner requesting that the pond be dredged.

ACTION: PC to write to the landowner in support of ESCC.

- (f) **Signs in Friston Forest** – the council requested an update on when the worn signs might be repaired. ESCC Rights of Way reiterated their previous advice that the fault reports will have been logged onto their system and referred to their Maintenance Team, but due to pressure on resources were unlikely to receive attention until rangers were working in the area on more urgent problems.

4. Verge cutting

The parish council had supplied all the documentation requested by ESCC Highways to enable the parish's contractor to cut the verges in the urban zone. However, ESCC's own contractor had done one cut this season. The parish would not want to pay for this.

4 Footpath along Gilberts Drive

The footway along Gilberts Drive opposite the Church had become very uneven and has caused an accident. This had been reported to ESCC who had taken out the protruding tree roots and re-patched the footway. Councillors thanked the Highway Steward for this action.

5 Church Entrance in Gilberts Drive

In Gilberts Drive at the Church entrance surface water had been running into the Churchyard and flooding the graves. ESCC had laid tarmac to keep the run-off within Gilberts Drive. Councillors thanked ESCC for the remedial work.

6. 'Residents Parking Only' signs

In both Upper and Lower Street a notice (as above) had been placed on walls adjacent to the highway. The council and non-involved residents asked what weight this action carried. IJ confirmed that the signs had no legal significance. There was no power to insist that such a sign be removed from a private wall, but equally the message on the sign could not be enforced.

5. Vehicular Access to Property over the Pavement

Several residents had asked for clarification about the above. A WDC tenant at The Fridays was in the habit of parking his vehicle next to his house, driving over a pavement (with no drop kerb) and a grass area owned by Wealden, to reach it. Other tenants had occasionally done the same. Disputes had arisen as to whether tenants had a right to expect their own unofficial driveways to be kept clear. IJ stated that ESCC Highways was aware of recent problems and that the Enforcement Officer had visited

The Fridays and given advice to various residents. No further action was proposed, and it was thought that there had been no subsequent problems.

6. Traffic Congestion over Easter Weekend

There had been significant traffic flow along Gilberts Drive in both directions over the Easter weekend. The road was relatively narrow with no parking restrictions. Vehicle parking on one side of the road required traffic from either direction to give way to the other. Usually this operated satisfactorily but with the increased volume of traffic over Easter, the extended lines of parked vehicles along the road, and some inconsiderate parking, bottlenecks occurred. The situation was compounded by regular bus services and the tour buses in the area. Members of the public had tried to assist by directing traffic. IJ advised that the direction of traffic was a police matter and that if members of the public were involved there could be insurance implications in the case of an accident. Similarly, only the police could put out traffic cones, and the police should be consulted if cones were wanted on future occasions.

7. Temporary Advertising Signs

ESCC has provided the PC with a copy of its guidance for temporary advertising signs in rural areas. The advice was helpful and was being publicized in the parish.

8. Footpath Signs to Birling Gap

A resident had suggested providing new signage to keep walkers off the Birling Gap road, which was very dangerous, especially between the Sheep Centre and the coast. Councillors suggested that one sign should direct walkers from the centre of the old village to the coast along the Went Way, and another should direct them from the Sheep Centre to Cornish Farm and the Belle Tout lighthouse or National Trust Centre (with two at the coast for walkers going the other way). ESCC Rights of Way had responded that they would have no objection to a sign directing walkers from the old village to the coast along Went Way and bridleway 13a, provided that ESCC Highways also approved, and the SDNPA be invited to comment. However, the path from the Sheep Centre to Cornish Farm might not be a public right of way. IJ would check with ESCC Rights of Way. If there were no public path, the alternative would be to install a highway sign saying 'No footway for ½ mile'. **ACTION: IJ to check with ESCC Rights of Way.**

9. Any other business

Councillor Hill raised the following matters:

- 'Pedestrians in road' sign – the sign at the Micheldene Road entrance to the Downlands Estate had been knocked down and needed to be replaced. IJ confirmed that this would not be a matter for Highways as the estate roads were

unadopted, but that Highways would have no objection to the sign being reinstated by the parish council

- Parking at the A259/Micheldene Road junction – the council asked whether Highways could intervene to prevent inconsiderate parking near the junction. **ACTION: IJ to check whether Highways has jurisdiction in this location.**
- Sunken manhole in Lower Street – the council queried whether the wrong manhole cover had been raised, and/or whether the one on the opposite side of the road should also be raised. TGL advised that the second manhole probably did not meet the criteria for being raised, as it was set back from the carriageway, but that he would check with the Drainage team. **ACTION: TGL**
- Letter from Mr D Holloway – the council had received a copy of a letter from Mr Holloway to Karl Taylor on various matters including signage to protect pedestrians from traffic and horses at Birling Gap. IJ reiterated that Highways would be prepared to install signage but would need statistics to back up the case for a horse warning sign. The council would take no further action.

10. 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						

11. Date and time of next meeting

Tuesday 25th October 2016 at 10.00 am in the Small Hall of the Village Hall, East Dean.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 11.15 am.