

## **STRENGTHENING LOCAL RELATIONSHIPS**

### **East Dean & Friston Parish Council Liaison Meeting 25 October 2016 at 10.00am In the Small Hall, East Dean Village Hall**

#### **DRAFT Minutes**

1. Apologies for absence: - Cllr A Hookham
2. The minutes of the meeting held on 19 April 2016 were confirmed as a correct record.
3. Matters arising:
  - (a) **Yellow lines** – IJ reported that the parish was near the top of the schedule for providing additional yellow lines, in Upper Street and at the junction of Gilberts Drive and Lower Street. A notice procedure must be completed before the project could proceed, and might draw objections; any irresolvable objections would be put before the ESCC Planning Committee for decision. The Committee was most likely to rule in favour of providing the yellow lines in cases involving safety issues (e.g. where parking could obscure sight lines at a junction).
  - (b) **Flooding on A259** – there had been no problems over the summer, but two trouble spots were expected to recur over the winter:
    - i. **The run-off from Friston Hill** - TL reported that vegetation had been cut back around the junction of the A259 and Upper Street in the hope that run-off would more easily reach the drains. Gullies further up the hill had been cleared, and the location had been reported to Costain as a hotspot where gullies should be dredged with increased frequency. Costain had not yet decided which locations to accept as hotspots. Councillors reported that run-off was still bypassing the manholes at the entrance to Upper Street and that a channel would be needed to take it to the drains.
    - ii. **East Dean Pond** – TL reported that no further action had been taken in regard to the dredging of the pond: at the end of the summer it was not clear

whether the landowner or ESCC expected to take remedial action. **ACTION: TL to make enquiries.**

- (c) **Signs in Friston Forest** – no update on the repair of worn signs. The ESCC Rights of Way team reiterated that maintenance had to be prioritized and that the Friston signs were unlikely to receive attention unless rangers were sent to the area for more urgent work. The requests had not been logged on the online reporting system (having predated the arrival of the system). **ACTION: IJ to send KL a link**
- (d) **Uneven pavement in Gilberts Drive** – no further action required following repairs by ESCC.
- (e) **Pedestrian safety sign in Micheldene Road**– ESCC Highways had supplied the parish with two of the specialist clips and the sign had been re-fixed by PS.
- (f) **Jurisdiction over parking at A259/Micheldene Road junction** – IJ clarified the legal position, that as Micheldene Road was an unadopted private road with public access, yellow lines could only be provided near the A259 junction with the consent of the landowner (effectively the Roads Company), plus confirmation from ESCC that the markings would be compliant with highway regulations. The adopted highway for which ESCC was directly responsible ran from the A259 a few metres into Micheldene Road, ending roughly at the point where pedestrians using the A259 highway footway would cross Micheldene Road. IJ confirmed that it would be open to the parish to request that yellow lines be added around this junction at the same time as those in Gilberts Drive and Upper Street. **ACTION: parish council to consult Roads Company.**
- (g) **Drain cover in Lower Street** – it was noted that this did not meet the criteria for alteration.

#### **4. Friston Bus Stop and Crossing**

The meeting took note that Costain had received £100,000 funding from ESCC to re-start the match funding scheme which EDFPC might use to provide a safer crossing point at Friston bus stop. The parish would need to pay Costain for an initial feasibility design (possibly about £500), and must also undertake robust consultation in the community, before the project could proceed. **ACTION: SS to supply details of the scheme.** Cllr Shing would help the parish take an application forward.

#### **5. Verge cutting**

The meeting compared the verge cutting maps supplied by ESCC to the parish council's contractor and to the East Sussex Highways contractor. It was agreed that the

division of labour was not always ideal, and that the areas of responsibility should be revised and harmonized prior to the 2017 season. There were three particular areas of concern, as follows:

- i. **Went Way** – responsibility along this road was currently shared between the two contractors but should be left to the parish council’s contractor.
- ii. **Gilberts Drive** – the verge outside The Fridays was in fact already being cut by the parish’s contractor, though not shown on the map, and it was agreed that the whole of the 30 mph zone should be in the care of the parish’s contractor.
- iii. **The Twitten** – historically the maintenance of the Twitten had been shared between the ESCC Highways team and the ESCC Rights of Way team. The parish’s contractor expected to do all the strimming within the Twitten, provided that ESCC could arrange to do all the cutting of the highway verge.

**ACTION: TL to review the division of labour and propose a revised allocation of areas.**

#### **6. Footpath Signs to Birling Gap**

The parish council still wanted to provide new signage to keep walkers off the Birling Gap road, which was not safe, especially in the area of the Sheep Centre. ESCC Rights of Way had confirmed that new signs routing walkers along safe rights of way would be acceptable to them, subject to the approval of the SDNPA planners, and to the approval of Highways if signs were to go on verges. One sign would be located at Birling Manor directing walkers to the coast at Belle Tout, and one at Birling Gap directing walkers to the village either via the Went Way or via Belle Tout. The National Trust had been consulted and was in principle supportive of the proposals. **ACTION: PC to draw up detailed plans**

#### **7. Traffic control at Exceat Bridge**

Cllr Shing confirmed that temporary lights would be used again at Exceat Bridge during future Airbourne events, unless and until a new bridge was provided. Data had been collected on traffic flows, and he would ask Graeme Lake for a formal report for the parish. **ACTION: SS.** The outcome of the funding bid would not be known before the end of November. Councillors enquired whether the hedge on the A259 west of Exceat Bridge could be cut back to improve visibility for westbound traffic. TL confirmed that this had recently been done on both sides of the hedge (i.e. including the river bank).

#### **8. Gulley Cleansing on A259**

TL confirmed that this had recently been done and that Costain had been requested to treat Friston Hill as a hotspot where more frequent cleansing should be undertaken. Their decision was awaited.

**9. Any other business**

Parish councillors asked for more information about the current works to the Beachy Head Road. It was noted that this road had been built in wartime without a proper substructure and was now having to be completely re-laid.

**10. Date and time of next meeting – Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> April 2017 at 10.00 am in the Small Hall of the village hall, East Dean.**