

STRENGTHENING LOCAL RELATIONSHIPS

East Dean & Friston Parish Council Liaison Meeting 11 April 2017 at 10.00am In the Small Hall, East Dean Village Hall

Minutes

1. Apologies for absence: - Cllr A Hookham, Cllr M Keller
2. The minutes of the meeting held on 25 October 2016 were confirmed as a correct record.
3. Matters arising:
 - (a) **Yellow lines** – IJ confirmed that the parish had reached the top of the schedule for providing additional yellow lines, in Upper Street and at the junction of Gilberts Drive and Lower Street. The sites would now be inspected and councillors would be welcome to attend. The parish would receive advance notice of a compulsory consultation process which would begin formally after the county elections.
 - (b) **Flooding on A259** – trouble spots had recurred over the winter:
 - i. **The run-off from Friston Hill** – the two gully pots at Friston Pond had been reported to the Highway Steward and had been jetted and cleared. However, run-off was still bypassing the manholes at the entrance to Upper Street where a channel was needed to take it to the drains.
 - ii. **East Dean Pond** – further down the hill, flooding after heavy rain had actually lifted a drain cover outside Garden Cottage by two inches, causing a hazard to pedestrians. East Sussex Highways had logged this under reference number 98575 for attention.
 - (c) **Signs in Friston Forest** – PS reported that a new gate and sign might have been installed. IJ reiterated that worn signs had low priority due to budgetary restrictions, but could be given higher priority if reported by the parish council rather than by an individual. **ACTION: PS to check with Flora Richards**

- (d) **Parking at A259/Micheldene Road junction** – the parish council asked whether ESCC Highways had any objection to the installation of bollards, at parish expense, to prevent parking around this junction. IJ advised that this could simply displace the problem. Highways would need to carry out a site inspection (this could be done on yellow line day). Bollards should be at least 450mm from the edge of the carriageway. Tree trunks or troughs with flowers were suggested as alternatives.
- (e) **Friston Crossing** – the parish council had applied for a feasibility study to be carried out, but had received no acknowledgement or update. **ACTION: IJ to make enquiries.**
- (f) **Verge cutting** – the maps had been revised for the new season
- (g) **Footpath Signs to Birling Gap** – the closure of the Sheep Centre had not yet reduced the numbers of tourists trying to walk to the coast along the Birling Gap Road. Information boards to show proper footpaths were still an option but would require planning permission and design input. Alternatively, ESCC Highways could install a 'Pedestrians in road' sign. The parish also asked about the cost of extra verge cuts on the Birling Gap Road. IJ confirmed that the cost would be £240 per hectare. **ACTION: KL to liaise with Liam Reilly to assess the area required; and to ask the National Trust if they might contribute.**
- (h) **Traffic control at Exceat Bridge** – it was hoped that temporary lights would be installed during the Airbourne air show on at least the Saturday and Sunday evenings, but this was not yet confirmed. ESCC remained of the view that permanent lights could exacerbate delays, because of the three-way controls required.

4. Signage on Friston Hill

The following items were discussed:

- a) A large 'slow' sign had been requested, to be written on the road surface near the bottom of Friston Hill, just before the Upper Street right turn. IJ stated that such signs did not normally stand alone, but in this case one will be added beside the existing yellow backed warning sign for the junction.
- b) A small retaining wall had been built very close to the A259 eastbound carriageway on Friston Hill. A resident of Seaford had complained that the location and structure of the wall were both defective and had succeeded in getting a hazard sign placed nearby; he had also lobbied the parish council for support. IJ advised that Costain's network management team would have

- organized the partial road closure to enable the work to be done, and may be able to give further information about the purpose of the wall. **ACTION: KL to enquire**
- c) East Dean village sign - there was no sign for motorists entering the village from the Seaford direction. Verge conditions dictated that any sign might have to be mounted on the back of the existing Friston sign on the other side of the carriageway. IJ agreed to inspect the site **ACTION: IJ.**
 - d) The brown Birling Gap sign on the junction of the A259 and Gilberts Drive did not give motorists enough warning for turning off the main road. The sign also still referred to the Sheep Centre which had closed. IJ agreed to speak to the Highway Steward about blanking out the Sheep Centre reference (**ACTION: IJ**), but advised that ESCC did not pay for brown signs, which were provided in consultation with the owner of the attraction. It was suggested that this sign should be revised and tied in with improved pedestrian signage. **ACTION: KL to consult National Trust**
 - e) Reconsider location of Gilberts Drive 30 mph signage - motorists turning left into Gilberts Drive from the A259 could fail to see the existing sign. The parish council had requested the Sussex police to do a speed check here. Depending on the outcome, East Sussex County Council might consider improvements to the signage.
 - f) Cleaning of road signs – a number of signs was now too dirty to be legible. IJ advised that Liam Reilly should be sent a list for Costain to clean. An identifiable length of verge or an area would be most cost effective. **ACTION: PH/PS to identify an area.**

5. **Loose manhole cover on A259**

The Highway Steward had arranged with Southern Water to lift the sunken manhole by the junction of Gilberts Drive. Southern Water had inspected the site on 4th April and marked it for repair.

6. **Speed on Downlands Estate roads**

Councillors requested a review of the actual and potential restrictions on estate roads. The estate roads were un-adopted public highways with public access. Currently 20 mph signs were displayed at the main entrances, but IJ advised that because of the public access the roads must conform to highway standards, and the whole estate would remain officially de-restricted unless restrictions were installed to highway standards. This would involve installing repeater signs all over the estate, which would be very costly and possibly not feasible as many verges were privately owned. Road bumps would have to be lit and would also be costly. It was noted that the Residents' Association had requested a speed check, and this request had been passed to the

Sussex police for action. IJ advised that it would be best to get a 7 day check done to obtain good quality information. **ACTION: KL**

7. Bulbs and wild flowers on verges

The parish council had put in a request for ESCC to plant bulbs in two verge areas. ESCC was now assessing all the sites proposed by all the parishes, and Liam Reilly would advise parishes when the results were available. The local Rotary Club had also kindly offered the parish council 500 crocus bulbs, which it was hoped could be planted at the front of the chosen verges, leaving the rear section free for taller species that might be planted by ESCC. IJ advised that cultivation licences are normally required.

ACTION: KL to put in an application

8. Any other business:

- a) Beachy Head Road - PS noted that the rebuilding of the Beachy Head Road had been completed to a good standard, and this was much appreciated.
- b) Railings in the Twitten (Footpath 25) – the parish council had reported that the low railings running alongside the path for about 50 feet from the Upper Street entrance were in disrepair, and had asked ESCC Rights of Way for permission to remove them at the parish's expense. This had been granted. However, it now appeared that the railing was used by some residents who had requested that it be repaired. All the posts except for the top three would need to be replaced. IJ advised that this might be a case for match funding. **ACTION: KL to obtain quotes**
- c) Jevington Road – this road was in very poor condition but had been marked for repairs. **ACTION: KL to ask Liam Reilly for schedule.**
- d) Yellow lines at Crowlink Lane – a resident had lobbied both the parish and the county to get yellow lines painted near the Pond. However, this might simply shift the parking problem. **ACTION: this location to be inspected on 'yellow lines day'**

9. Date and time of next meeting: Tuesday 26th September at 10.00 am in the Small Hall of East Dean village hall.