

Cllr P Seeley (Chair), Cllr P Hill, Cllr I Haydock and
Cllr M Keller (EDFPC)
Cllr S Shing (ESCC)
Cllr John Wilton (WDC)
Ian Johnson – Traffic and Safety Manager (ESCC)
Thomas Lee – Highway Steward (ESCC)
Sophie Coleman – Rights of Way Team (ESCC)
Katrina Larkin (Parish Clerk)



STRENGTHENING LOCAL RELATIONSHIPS

**East Dean & Friston Parish Council Liaison Meeting
26 September 2017 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 11 April 2017 were confirmed as a correct record.
3. **On foot to Birling Gap** – correspondence received from the National Trust strongly agreed that pedestrian use of the Birling Gap Road was dangerous, and argued that even with additional verge cuts at the Birling Manor section it was not easy enough to walk through, and people were constantly walking on the road at the spot where visibility was at its worst. IJ advised that if a new footway were to be provided (e.g. from Birling Manor past Shepherd's Cottage) it would need to be formalized and tarmacked. The meeting agreed it would be better to direct walkers to existing bridleways. SC confirmed that the ESCC Rights of Way team agreed with this in principle but ESCC would need to be consulted about the content and placing of the signage. Several signs would be needed: Went Way to Birling Gap; Birling Manor to Cornish Farm and thence to Belle Tout (sign and map); and Birling Gap (showing both routes back to the village). A current planning application at Birling Manor would assist by separating Bridleway 26a from the driveway to the house. The design of the new signs would need to be approved by the National Trust (on their land), and by the SDNPA (all three signs). The project would need to be funded locally.
4. **Yellow lines** – IJ confirmed that the parish council would receive a copy of the consultation documentation prior to publication. The timing was not yet known. The parish council should check with Highways as to whether a licence was required to put planters on the verge at the entrance to Micheldene Road, as the road was not totally private. **ACTION: KL to query at contact centre.**
5. **Flooding on A259** - work had been done to cut back vegetation around the Upper Street/A259 junction gullies, but the surface run-off was still by-passing the gullies because

the road surface needed re-shaping. TL would ask the drainage team to provide a specification **ACTION: TL**. The East Dean Pond gully pots had been cleared and the frequency of clearances had been increased. It should now be annual.

6. **Friston build-out** – The parish council had considered the feasibility report and agreed in principle that the project should be supported under its duty of care, subject to the October budgetary review. A decision would be made in October. In the meantime, the parish requested that Highways should provide a temporary warning sign on Friston Hill, as this spot was a funnel point for walkers from five directions. IJ advised that temporary signs should not be used for this general purpose. Permanent ‘Pedestrians in road’ signs were usually reserved for high speed roads. The proposed solution of a build-out at the bus layby would be more effective, and permanent. PS queried whether the project would go ahead, as the location did not meet all the criteria for a formal crossing point. IJ advised that even though this was correct, paragraph 4.9 in the feasibility report showed that a build-out might be permitted and would in practice make crossing easier. There would simply be no drop-kerb to make it official. A safety audit would have to be carried out, and if the results were satisfactory then the build-out could be done and walkers would have the choice of using the high kerb at their own risk. If the project did not go ahead, signage would still be an option. Councillors asked whether the junction could be lit. IJ advised that ESCC had to prioritise sites through an assessment based on the number of deaths, and that this site would not qualify. Finally, IJ was asked to advise whether the build-out would result in queues of traffic on Friston Hill waiting for motorists turning right at the top: it would not, as motorists would still be able to access the bus lay-by.
7. **Traffic control at Exceat** – the temporary lights provided during the Eastbourne Air Show 2017 had been a great success. The parish thanked all those involved and hoped the lights would be provided again in 2018.
8. **Signage on Friston Hill** – IJ reported that a ‘slow’ sign had been ordered for the road surface near the bottom of Friston Hill, just before the Upper Street right turn; a new East Dean village sign (westbound), had also been ordered; and instructions were awaited from the parish council as to which road signs needed cleaning/clearing of vegetation. It was confirmed that the whole of the A259 in the parish, plus the Jevington Road should be done. **ACTION: TL to place order or obtain information**. The parish had also asked for new 30 mph signage for motorists turning left from the A259 into Gilberts Drive, but IJ advised that this item should be deleted, as it could not be done without amending the Traffic Regulation Order.
9. **Speed on Downlands Estate roads** – the parish was still awaiting a police speed check, but progress had been hindered by road closures etc. on the Estate due to replacement of

the gas main. Councillors asked who was currently collecting data on the A259 by the East Dean bus stops. The data would be compromised by the current road works. IJ agreed to enquire. **ACTION: IJ.**

10. **Bulbs and wild flowers on verges** - The parish council had put in a request for two locations. TL reported that an update should soon be available from the Communications team. Councillors requested that this be speeded up, or the planting season would be over. **ACTION: TL to enquire.**

11. **Twitten railings** – the parish council asked whether there was a case for match funding the replacement of the railings at the Upper Street entrance to the Twitten. IJ advised that ESCC Rights of Way (Matt Harper) should be consulted. **ACTION: PH to send two quotes for assessment.**

12. **Retaining wall on Friston Hill** – some residents had described this as a hazard. The wall had been rebuilt following an accident 18 months ago, and was on privately owned land, so ESCC Highways had not been asked to authorize it, and had no jurisdiction over it. SS pointed out that if the wall did not exceed 1 metre in height it could have been built as Permitted Development and not required approval from anyone. It was not clear whether the wall had increased in height since it was rebuilt. It was agreed that the parish should do a Land Registry search to establish ownership, and contact the owner. An informal 'Road narrows' sign had been left at the spot and might be an issue for the planning authority. **ACTION: KL to investigate.**

13. **Any other business** – the following matters were raised:

- a) Willow tree by East Dean bus stop (south side) – a tree had split and was resting on the wall owned by the Gilbert Estate. **ACTION: KL to contact the Estate.**
- b) The Drove – the question was raised whether the existence of a right of way along The Drove had been established. KL stated it had been established that there was no right of way. The opportunity to claim one had been lost in the post-war period.
- c) Brown sign at A259/Gilberts Drive junction – IJ had placed an order for this sign to be patched properly.

14. **Date and time of next meeting** – Tuesday 13th March 2018 at 10.00 am in the Small Hall, East Dean.