

Date: 07 October 2021

Title: Report Item 14 — Correspondence

By: K Larkin (Parish Clerk)

Purpose: To report on correspondence received since the meeting on 05 August 2021

Recommendations: To note the report

Note: more items may be added to this schedule prior to the council meeting on 07 October 2021; a copy of the final version can be obtained by emailing the Clerk: clerk@edfparishcouncil.org.uk

The following items of correspondence have been received since the 05 August meeting:

- **Strimming of paths** – a resident has complained that Footpath 32 (Micheldene Road to Sussex Gardens) has become overgrown. The council's contractor has done four strims of the floor of the path and - exceptionally - the hedges either side at the Micheldene Road end have been cut back. Similarly a complaint has arisen on Footpath 17 (Warren Lane to Peakdean Close) and hedge letters have been sent.
- **Problems with accessing Seaford surgery** – a resident has complained to Maria Caulfield MP who is taking up the problem on his behalf. The problem is known to be widespread.
- **Fibre broadband** – a resident has requested the Roads Company and the parish council to take up the cause of providing fibre broadband to the village. Lightning Fibre, a company based in Polegate, is currently doing work in Eastbourne and has been approached by the resident. However, there are problems, principally over the ownership of the Estate Roads. The Roads Company has provided the following information:
 - The only contact that the Roads Company have had from Lightning Fibre is a speculative email 12 December 2018. This was forwarded to the East Dean Residents Association on the same day for any comments, but none received back.
 - The Roads Company does not own or have any property interest in any road or land. Most of the roads ownership is unknown but probably comes under the jurisdiction of the Crown Estates or individual residents' frontage.
 - The Roads Company only maintains the road surface and road gullies on behalf of the shareholders/residents, by annual contribution.

- Unless Lightning Fibre have statutory rights to dig up roadways, homeowners' verges, etc. (as BT) then it is presumed that they would need the authority of most of the 600 property owners to carry out their work.
- It is not the responsibility of the Roads Company to deal with Lightning Fibre. The parish council is requested to consider who should take this forward. There is as yet no information as to the likely level of take-up on the Estate.

One sample speed provided by a resident on the Estate is Download 22Mbps; Upload 11 Mbps. A good internet speed is one that averages above 25 Mbps. This is enough speed to support modest online activity for a small family or office. This type of speed will support HD streaming, online gaming, music downloads, and general web browsing. Faster broadband speeds are measured above 100 Mbps. This speed is recommended to those who have larger households or offices or if the connection needs to support many users or devices at once.

- **Support for Afghan refugees** – a village organisation has written to propose a local initiative to re-home Afghan refugees. The parish council does not have the powers or funds to house anybody, but Wealden District Council is in principle willing to help. Here is a link to their published statement on Afghanistan and the refugee crisis: <https://www.wealden.gov.uk/news/we-pledge-our-support-for-afghan-refugees/> The statement says: '.... resettlement of refugees, with the appropriate support needed to ensure they can live healthy and fulfilling lives, is a complex process that requires leadership and coordination at national level, as well appropriate funding.' Alternatively the Refugee Council has a website where volunteers can offer more limited help: <https://www.refugeecouncil.org.uk/get-involved/volunteer-for-us/>
- **Flooding on Deneside** – a resident has copied to the parish council a letter sent to the Residents' Association appealing for help to prevent run-off from Deneside entering her property and causing damage. The issue is that a raised kerb is needed to prevent the water getting in, but this has twice been provided by the householder and twice lost when contractors work on the road.
- **Wildlife Crime** – a resident has requested the council to publicise Operation Templar being run by the Sussex Police Rural Crime Team: <https://www.sussex.police.uk/police-forces/sussex-police/areas/campaigns/campaigns/.divisional-campaigns/rural-crime-team-monthly-update/> This is a timely reminder as some wildlife crime is seasonal and can peak as autumn approaches.
- **Inconsiderate parking at Crowlink** – the signs requesting motorists not to park alongside the churchyard wall at Friston are apparently being ignored. In addition, some motorists are actually parking in the new slip road, blocking it entirely. More than one household at Crowlink has complained and requested stronger directives on the signage. The council may wish to re-emphasise the reasons for the restriction on parking at the Pond, which have safety implications for all the residents of Crowlink Lane, by publication in the parish magazine. However, it appears that some of those responsible are not local. In addition, perhaps Easy Sussex Highways could paint 'Keep Clear' on the slip road?

- **Hedge obstructing Micheldene Road** – a resident has complained that part of the hedge on the right hand side of Micheldene Road behind the Downlands Way homes is seriously overgrown and is forcing pedestrians into the road by as much as 2m. This is the side on which people would naturally walk – the other side is a wooded bank. Hedge letters should be sent to the households concerned.
- **Damaged road sign in Village Green Lane** – it has been reported that in the rainstorm on 9th September, one of the signs on the verge showing the Lane to be a No Through Road disappeared. Its pair on the opposite side of the Lane is beginning to deteriorate. Wealden District Council who own and manage the car park have been asked to repair/reinstate the signs as appropriate.