

Date: 5th April 2018

Title: Report Item 6 – ROW Expenditure

By: Cllr P Seeley (Lead Member – Rights of Way)/K Larkin (Parish Clerk)

Purpose: To propose three items of ROW expenditure

Recommendations: (a) To endorse the proposed village clean and purchase of equipment
(b) To approve in principle the installation of removable bollards at Gore Farm Close
(c) To approve in principle the installation of an additional dog bin in Downsvie Lane

The village clean

This has been proposed by a resident of The Ridgeway, Friston. She has proposed that there be a village clean up one day on a weekend this spring (end of April/early May). The proposal is initially to have a litter picking campaign across the village and tidy up of all the public areas.

In order to facilitate this I have proposed that the PC pay for some reflective vests, gloves and bin bags for the volunteers to use. I suggest 20 sets in all. The cost is approx. £3.50 per tabard (total cost £70+).

It may be possible to extend the scope to include some decoration of The Pavilion subject to PC agreement.

Bollards at Gore Farm Close

With regards to the bollards by the shops and the possible emergency access to the A259 via Gore Farm Close I would make the following comments.

Several residents have made representations to Parish Councillors regarding the road closures at Michel Dene Road. Concerns have been raised regarding access for emergency vehicles, particularly fire appliances and ambulances. The PC did investigate and there were issues regarding access through Gore Farm Close as it is a private access and ownership is not currently known.

The situation was exacerbated during the last closure when there was a snow fall and subsequent freeze. This would have made the alternative access via Hillside impassable for fire engines and ambulances.

It is recommended that the PC review the position again and take the necessary measures to remove the three concrete bollards at the shops car park (owned by the PC) and replace them with removable bollards. There are no raised kerbs or other obstacles that would have to be addressed. There is one car parking space either side of the bollards that need to be given consideration.

The PC should, at the same time, take all necessary steps to ascertain who the private land owner is and reach an agreement for emergency vehicle access.

The whole to be completed prior to winter 2019/19

Extra dog bin at Downs View Close

A resident of Downsview Lane has appealed to the parish council to install an additional dog bin at the end of the Lane. The Lane is a dog walking hotspot and the resident has complained that the bushes up near the farm at the far end are festooned with poo bags which have simply been dropped, and the contamination is affecting the hedge. She requests the council to install a dog bin up near the farm. There is an installation cost for dog bins, and thereafter a quarterly emptying charge has to be paid (£60x4 = £240pa). In addition, Wealden District Council has to approve the site as accessible for the collecting truck, and will also need assurance that the landowner of the chosen location has no objection to the installation.

The Budget 2018/19

The council's budget for the new financial year includes a sum of £750 for general ROW maintenance, plus £500 for the servicing of existing dog bins. There is also a sum of £1,000 set aside for minor projects.

