

**Date:** 01 August 2019

**Title:** Report Item 18 – Correspondence

**By:** K Larkin (Parish Clerk)

**Purpose:** To report on correspondence received since the July meeting

**Recommendations:** To note the report

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The following items of correspondence have been received since the July council meeting:

- **Stolen defibrillator** – the East Dean Responders reported the loss of the defibrillator stored outside the village hall, presumed stolen. However, all is well as it has reappeared (no explanation). Advice has been obtained on the pros and cons of locked/unlocked cabinets and tracking devices.
- **Air pollution** - a resident says: 'We respectfully ask that you support a campaign to improve the air quality of our area. This would include lobbying Wealden District Council (WDC) and East Sussex County Council (ESCC) to update or introduce by-laws to restrict the lighting of bonfires in residential back gardens throughout the Parish or District.'
- **Coastal Communities Economic Prospectus** - fourteen Local Authorities and the South East Local Enterprise Partnership (SELEP) have commissioned consultants Deyton Bell (<https://deytonbell.com>) to undertake research on the South East's coastal economy to deliver a 'Coastal Communities Economic Prospectus', setting out the issues facing coastal towns in the South East. Councillors have been invited to respond to a preliminary survey.
- **Numbering of new houses at The Fridays** – a potential problem has been reported as a sign has gone up numbering the new houses 11-5 The Fridays. Wealden District Council currently list 1 – 10 The Fridays (BN20 0DG) on the East side of Gilberts Drive & 11 – 22 (BN20 0DH) on the West. The new development houses to the South of the existing Fridays homes are numbered direct to Gilberts Drive, i.e. 5 – 11 Gilberts Drive BN20 0DJ (continuing on the numbering from the houses to the North of The Fridays, 1 – 4 Gilberts Drive). The signage needs to be clarified.
- **Vandalism at the recreation ground** – the Cricket Club have reported finding the ground littered between Friday night and Saturday morning, with empty cans and cigarette butts.
- **Responsibility for road maintenance in the Downlands precinct** – the Roads Company has asked whether road maintenance in the precinct is the responsibility of the parish council. The council's understanding is that although it has the freehold

interest in the precinct, it is not liable for the maintenance of the road. The road has been reported as in poor condition, affecting many people using the shops or other services including the surgery. The Company accepts that it has obligations regarding the maintenance of Downlands Way, but is not convinced regarding the precinct, and requests that the council confirm the situation with the Hon. Solicitor. They do maintain Michel Dene Road and Wenthill Close for all vehicles that use this area.

- **Speed limits on the Downlands Estate** – a councillor has proposed placing informal 20mph highways signs at the Estate entrances and 20mph roundels in the road just after the entrances at Friston and East Dean. He says: ‘This approach which I believe should have collective agreement will be protecting our residents, their children and elderly family members plus their pets’. The 40 mph sign at the Micheldene Road entrance to the Estate is an official Highways sign: the Highway authority has a legal obligation to signal to road users entering the A259 from Micheldene Road that they are entering a 40 mph zone. Unfortunately, the obverse of the sign has the derestriction symbol because that is technically what is applicable on the Estate roads – though locally it is perceived as most unhelpful.
- **Information of road closure** – a member of the public has requested information about the effect of the South Coast Classic cycle event (28 July) on users of the A259 through East Dean. There will be a rolling road closure on that section of the A259 from the Gilberts Drive junction and on towards Eastbourne.
- **Footpath 32** – a resident has expressed concern about a tree in unsafe condition partially obstructing this path, and ESCC Rights of Way has sent an officer to investigate. Their conclusion is that although there are some broken limbs in the tree canopy there are none that currently look as if they pose a risk. All of the trees at this point are chestnuts and they are suffering from an infestation of leaf miner moth. This pest affects the leaves only, causing unsightly discolouration and early leaf drop. The infestation will not affect the general health of the trees or limbs. As the tree in question is rooted on the boundary of the footpath it is the view of ESCC that if works were required they would be the responsibility of the owner of the boundary.
- **Replacement of memorial seat at Friston Pond** – two families have expressed an interest. One may be interested in an alternative site nearer the Village Hall, if one can be found.