East Dean & Friston
Parish Council

Date: **04 June 2020**

Title: **Report Item 18 – Correspondence**

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

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

Recommendations: **To note the report**

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

- Footpath 8 - a resident has noted that this path from the Ridgeway through to Old Willingdon Road was not chipped last winter, and due to a very wet winter it is now looking very poor. The council is requested to do chippings this autumn.

- The mirror at the junction of Micheldene Road and Wenthill Close – a resident has complained that due to the angle of the mirrors at present the view is obscured, and the hedge around them has grown considerably which adds to the problem. The issue has been referred to the Roads Company

- Strimming of verges on Friston Hill – a resident has complained that the contractors from East Sussex County Council Highways have once again omitted part of the bank on the east side which is supposed to be included in the rural grass cutting schedule twice yearly. This issue is to the raised at the next SLR (county liaison) meeting

- Closure of East Dean surgery – two residents have expressed concern at the planned closure of the surgery in the shopping precinct. The Chair of the Council has written to Maria Caulfield MP, and to the parish's County and District Councillors, to argue for the retention of this facility and to request their support in campaigning for it.

- Traffic management for East Dean/Birling Gap/Beachy Head – a local campaign has begun to seek some respite from the increasingly severe traffic problems south of the A259. The Gilbert Estate has sought the support of the parish council in this matter and has put forward the following solutions to East Sussex Highways on behalf of residents with the objective of creating a unique, quiet and peaceful part of the National Park, with wildlife, recreation, health, residents and business at the heart of it :

1. Prevent Cars parking on the verges around Birling Gap
2. Introduce a 40 MPH speed limit
3. Introduce Automatic Number Plate Recognition ANPR electric gates to limit access to the total number of available car parking spaces (or to a cut off and opening time) with access for essential and emergency services.
4. ANPR Gates to close the circular route off to vehicles near the Parish and EBC Boundary, (say between the lane to Birling Gap Houses and Birling Gap car park) and at the Beachy Head pub,. (Walkers, Bicycles and buses would still have access)
5. Introduce a Park and Ride Scheme – collection points in East Dean, Warren Hill, Eastbourne Seafront
6. Provide visitor centres, cycle hire, tea rooms at collection points
7. Incorporate a ban on light aircraft below 5000 feet

In the short term, as a temporary measure now in light of the additional tourist traffic and in a bid to reduce speeding, noise, risk whilst encouraging cycling, walking and recreation between Eastbourne and Seaford:

- Close the circular road to cars near the Parish and EBC Boundary, say between the lane to Birling Gap Houses and Birling Gap car park.

And if possible

- Prevent cars parking on the verges and on the footpaths, limiting the total number of car parking spaces on the East Dean / Birling Gap / Beachy Head Road
- Introduce and enforce a 40mph speed limit around the road, with speed and decibel cameras

- Complaint – a resident has complained about comments made in the minutes of the Planning Committee regarding a particular enforcement case.