

**Date:** 5<sup>th</sup> January 2017

**Title:** Report Item 11 – Correspondence

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

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

**Recommendations:** To note the report

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

- **Mrs J Booth-Clibborn** - monitored the pedestrian usage of the Birling Gap road throughout the summer, and it is clear that although ramblers will find the new signs useful, the many overseas visitors following apps on their mobiles will continue to keep to the road. Considering how much must have been spent on improving the Beachy Head road recently, which will only serve to speed up vehicles, I feel it is unreasonable not to make improvements to the verge between the Sheep Centre corner and Shepherd's Cottage to benefit walkers. The verge the entire way to Birling Gap needs three cuts a year, rather than the existing two. Once again the second cut was not made until the end of the summer holidays, which meant that, at the busiest time, walkers were forced to walk on the road. If finance is the drawback, then the money going toward the signs would be better spent, in the first instance, on improving that particular stretch of verge for pedestrians. When signs were first proposed, I too thought they might alleviate the situation, but it has become very clear that many pedestrians heading to Birling Gap want to take the quickest and most direct route. Having taken their photos of the Seven Sisters they then retrace their steps!
- **NALC** - Council tax referendum principles have not been extended to parish and town councils in 2017/18. The government will continue monitoring actual council tax increases, and will review this decision.
- **East Sussex Association of Local Councils** – the spring conference is now being planned for Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> March 2017 at Hellingly. The council may wish to send a representative.
- **East Sussex Highways** – an SLR Meetings Survey is in progress and will inform future ESCC decisions as to how best to conduct this kind of liaison with parishes in future. Councillors are welcome to complete the survey which closes on 13<sup>th</sup> January 2017. A link has been circulated.
- **Wealden District Council** – has published details proposals for the revision of polling districts and polling places to accommodate the changes in agreed in recent

boundary reviews. Any comments or observations on the proposals should be sent to Electoral Services at Wealden by 23<sup>rd</sup> January. The proposals will be considered for final approved on 30th January. East Dean and Friston is not directly affected.

- **Mrs E Worsfold** – the last remaining elm tree in Upper Street is in a very poor condition. Radical surgery has been undertaken on it in the past, to try to save it from Dutch Elm Disease, but the trunk of the remaining portion is riddled with holes, and much of the bark has come off. A report has been sent to ESCC's Tree Officer. The tree is thought to be on highway land.

23/12/2016

04/01/2017