

Date: 5th January 2017

Title: Report Item 4 – Business in Progress

By: K Larkin (Parish Clerk)

Purpose: To provide an update on progress since the December meeting

Recommendation: To note the progress report

The following are matters of report arising from the December council meeting:

- **Play Project** – information on the decisions made at the December meeting has been publicised on the council website and in the parish magazine. An oral update on further progress will be provided at the January meeting.
- **Downlands way covenant fees** – a letter has been sent to the proprietor who was in debt, confirming that the debt has been cleared by an anonymous benefactor. The proprietor has also been offered payment terms for the fees to be invoiced for the year ending 31st August 2017. At the time when the Deed of Covenant was signed, all of the (then) occupiers had a legal right of occupation (as freeholder or lessee) and the intention was that they should pass the covenant on to a purchaser or assignee as the case may be. Therefore, each freeholder is liable to pay the covenant fee for any property he owns, rather than the occupier, unless he has notified the council that a specific occupier has entered into a direct covenant with the council. Confirmation of ownership of the Barber's is being obtained.
- **Nomination of Barn Stores as an asset of community value** – the Barn Stores is part of a larger Land Registry title. However, the drafting of an application is in progress for consideration by the council in the first instance. The freeholder must be consulted.
- **Friston crossing** – An application has now been formally submitted to ESCC Highways for a feasibility survey of the proposed crossing project, at a cost of £500; ESCC has acknowledged receipt. Cllr Wilton has confirmed that Maria Caulfield MP has kindly indicated she would support an application by the parish council for Community Match funding, should the parish decide to proceed
- **Thanks to Mr Fyfield** – a letter of thanks and good wishes has been sent, formally recording the fact that Mr Fyfield's large, hand-drawn map of the parish is to be retained in the parish archives.
- **Wealden Citizens' Advice** – has been invited to take a stand at the AVM 2017

The following are matters of report arising from previous meetings:

- **A259 East Dean recommended improvements** – a list of the proposals suggested by Mr Worsfold is attached (see Appendix), typed in black, with answers as they stand at present typed in blue. However, items (2) and (3) are still ongoing, and the council awaits the Highway Steward's report on item (4).

- **War Memorial** – work is scheduled to begin on Monday 6th March 2017. The Gilbert Estate has been informed.
- **Waste bins and dog bins** – the new waste bins were delivered on 2nd December. Wealden has been requested to complete the list of actions to remove/upgrade/maintain existing bins, as agreed back in July, and has also been asked whether their contractor could install the new Leafield bins in the car park at the same time. Wealden has a new officer dealing with dog bins, and she has been separately notified of the parish's order for two new dog bins (one at the recreation ground and one in the village car park).
- **Highways:**
 - a. Verge cutting – KL is in contact with the ESCC Asset Management Team who have requested detailed information about the changes required. This involves a careful comparison of maps which are slightly inconsistent with one another.
 - b. Footpath signs to the coast – detailed plans in preparation by PH
- **Pavilion water supply and waste water** – KL to arrange Direct Debits for both
- **Various repairs at rec and play area** – PH to inspect and report on action required regarding the broken bollard on The Drove; and the missing gate latch on the lower gate to the play area.
- **Online access for Vice Chair to council bank accounts** – Mandate change is required
- **False acacias** – Richard Bartlett (Tree Warden) is yet to report

23/12/2016

APPENDIX

REQUESTS FROM MR WORSFOLD

A259 East Dean recommended improvements

At the parish council meeting on 3rd November 2016 Mr S Worsfold made a number of proposals to 'de-urbanise' the A259 and improve Upper Street and Gilberts Drive. Each proposal has been followed up with the relevant authority, and currently the responses stand as follows, though some enquiries are still ongoing:

1. Re-position 30 mph signs in Gilberts Drive which are too close to the A259 junction. I have queried this with the Traffic and Safety Manager at ESCC and been advised that the signs cannot be moved without an amendment being made to the Traffic Regulation Order. By moving the signs further in to Gilberts Drive, this would mean that the first part would then be covered by the 40mph limit which is unlikely to be what the residents would wish for.
2. Reduce light pollution and support SDNPA Dark Skies policy by replacing A259 up-lighting with down-lighting (and perhaps reducing three units to two). This is a matter for the ESCC Street Lighting Team, who say: 'The two white central refuge globes are lit in accordance with traffic regulations and are only illuminated with 11 watt compact fluorescent lamps so emit very little upward light. The lantern in Gilberts Drive is higher power unit but has an optic to direct the light on to the ground and a canopy to prevent upward light. All of the units therefore produce very little light pollution or upward light.'
3. Remove police ANPR camera pole, or if still required re-fix it as it is not upright and could be 2 metres shorter. As this is an Automatic Number Plate Reader and not a speed camera, it is the responsibility of Sussex Police and I am contacting their Traffic Management Officer, Mark Dunn.
4. Attend to two manhole covers on A259 (Southern Water on eastbound lane near crossing; and South East Water on eastbound lane near The Old Parsonage). Both are the wrong height since resurfacing and cause noise. This has been reported to the Highway Steward and logged as case no.0059397 on the ESCC Highways reporting system. The Highway Steward will inspect the covers
5. Replace the 'East Dean' village sign (traditional style) entering the village from the west, and situate on left of carriageway, not on the right. Back in October 2011 the parish council asked ESCC about marking the entrance to the village of East Dean but was told that the narrowness of the verges severely limited what could be done. ESCC recently provided the village nameplates at their expense in the locations chosen for verge availability and there are no plans to move them. If the Parish Council wanted to consider relocating them, they would need to work with ESCC and pay for the changes themselves.
6. Remove trees opposite Forge Cottage (except the *prunus*, which should be trimmed). Since the parish council minutes were published, another resident has made contact opposing the removal of any trees.
7. Speed check eastbound traffic on Eastbourne Hill. Cllr Fuller has made enquiries of the Sussex Police and received information that the criteria for mounting a speed watch have changed and that the parish would need to make an application to see if they now qualify. However, records show that ESCC did collect traffic survey data in the centre of the village from 10 – 17 September 2014. The results showed that the average speed over 24 hours was 32 mph westbound and 31 mph eastbound, with only 15% of drivers exceeding 40-41 miles per hour. These were significant findings, and the parish council at their December meeting agreed that no further action should be taken regarding Speedwatch.

8. Pursue imposition of 30 mph speed limit. Support should be sought from Maria Caulfield MP and from the Ramblers Association. The parish council has always supported this idea but knows from experience that it does not meet the criteria that ESCC work with for the implementation of speed limits. The speed data already collected (see paragraph 7 above), actually support the ESCC point of view. ESCC has asked me to emphasise that they have over 200 requests for new or amended speed limits and simply do not have the resources to address them all.
9. And finally – notify Mr C Davies Gilbert that a willow tree by the Horsefield pond is affecting his flint wall. The same resident who objected to the removal of trees opposite Forge Cottage has also objected to the idea of removing the willow, though in this case there is the extra factor that a flint wall is being damaged. The council has passed a message on to Mr Davies Gilbert, and the final decision will rest with him.