

Date: 2nd March 2017

Title: Report Item 11 – Correspondence

By: K Larkin (Parish Clerk)

Purpose: To report on correspondence received since the February meeting

Recommendations: To note the report

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

- **Mrs E Worsfold/ Mrs M Charwood** – the phone kiosk at Birling Gap has lost its door. The clerk can report that the repair and repainting of this kiosk has been on BT's Redcare job list for 18 months and in fact the door is with the contractors, but a replacement is needed and these are not kept in stock. As soon as one is available, the repair will be done. BT has been notified that it is now urgent to push this job up the list. They expect work including repainting to be done in June. The kiosk on the A259 was last repainted in 2010 and will not be done again this year, but possibly in 2018.
- **East Sussex County Council** - The East Sussex, South Downs and Brighton & Hove Waste and Minerals Sites Plan (WSMP) was, subject to a number of Main Modifications, found sound by an independent Government Planning Inspector. Since then East Sussex County Council, the South Downs National Park Authority and Brighton & Hove City Council have all agreed the Main Modification and resolved to adopt the Plan as planning policy for waste management and minerals production for the Plan Area to 2026. The adopted Plan is now available to view on the following website - <http://consult.eastsussex.gov.uk> and, in hard copy, at certain libraries and offices [further details on request].
- **Wealden District Council** – the council has given notice that at a cabinet meeting on 8th March it intends to carry out a review of options for car parking, in private, on the ground that the report 'might contain information that is commercially sensitive'.
- **Kent Surrey and Sussex Air Ambulance** – the parish council is requested to consider making a grant of £250 towards the ongoing cost of providing this service, which operates locally
- **Mr G Matle** – has requested that the parish council write to Eastbourne Borough Council about the poll on the proposed sale of the Eastbourne Downland, to ask that EDF residents whose properties border the Downland be included in the poll. The parish council has declined as it has previously received assurances from the

SDNPA that its policy regarding the Downlands will not be changed by the sale. EBC's own decision whether to sell or not will be influenced by other budgetary decisions which will not directly affect EDF.

- **Mrs E Worsfold** - the proposed new phone mast and boxes on the A259 would be unsightly and devalue property. Also there are ridges between this area and both Sussex Gardens, Birling Gap, and Peak Dean Lane, which might affect its operation. Could not a taller mast be erected at the water tower, with an operative area reaching the Seven Sisters, where currently there is no signal and emergencies may arise? The council is keeping a log of comments on the phone mast to await its consideration of the future planning application
- **East Sussex County Council** – the county has sent a special budget communication to parish councils regarding its funding shortfall (see Appendix to this report)
- **Wealden District Council** – the District Council's Community and Regeneration team wishes to know of any steering groups at parish level dedicated to business and/or tourism; it would like to support and publicise any such groups
- **Mr S Harms** – the playhouse in the play area has loose floor boards and is no longer safe. The PC needs to arrange early removal or temporary repair.
- **Mrs J Booth-Clibborn** – the verge on the Birling Gap Road has been cut in its entirety, and even back to the fence on the long stretch to the Gap
- **Mr C Davies Gilbert** – work on the Friday Field development will start in mid-March. Initially there will be technical exploratory surveys carried out, with construction work starting later in the summer. The council will be advised when the actual start date is known.
- **Frontier Fireworks** – request for an update on the council's plans for bonfire, if any.

23/02/2017

01/03/2017

APPENDIX

ESCC budget communications to Parish Councils

Dear Partner,

This Tuesday 7th February, East Sussex County Council's budget and draft Council Plan for 2017/18 were passed at a meeting of the Full Council. County Councillors voted to spend £365 million on public services for East Sussex and to allocate £95 million to the capital budget, for one-off projects.

Councillors agreed to introduce a Government approved 3% Adult Social Care Council Tax levy (in addition to a 1.99% Council Tax increase) to cover some of the funding shortfall for our Adult Social Care services. Despite this, we are still facing a huge funding gap for Adult's and Children's Services, as a result of continued reduction in our Central Government grant alongside an increase in demand for services. The 2017/18 budget therefore outlines the need to make £17m in savings in the next financial year.

Following extensive consultation with public, private and voluntary and community sector partners, Cabinet made a number of amendments to the original savings proposals in response to concerns raised by communities in East Sussex.

These amendments, to be funded through a reduced annual revenue contribution to the Capital Programme, included:

- deleting planned savings for the Duke of Edinburgh scheme and ESCC Youth Cabinet;
- introducing a £750,000 transitional fund for schools in 2017/18 to mitigate changes made to schools funding; and
- increased investment:
 - a) of £1.3m in highways, drainage and pavements to maintain the condition of our roads and prevent trips and falls;
 - b) of £130,000 in youth services (including detached and mobile outreach Youth Work Programmes which work with community safety to identify and target Antisocial Behaviour hot spots, Junior Autistic Spectrum Disorder activity sessions and drop in group work provision in targeted communities); and
 - c) of £150,000 in the Community Match Scheme.

The additional investment into the Community Match Scheme was made in recognition that the scheme maximises our resources by empowering East Sussex communities to invest in their specific local priorities, and enables residents to take ownership of infrastructure provision in their local communities.

The coming years will continue to be challenging. Our Medium Term Financial Plan, agreed last year, requires further extensive savings in 2018/19 and 2019/20. Our Central Government grant will continue to reduce until it is abolished in 2019/20, and Local Government will be funded solely by locally raised business rates and Council Tax. In East Sussex, this poses a challenge as we are currently a net importer of business rates, and the growth of large businesses to generate increased property based business rates is restricted by our local infrastructure, environment and the nature of our local economy.

We would welcome your continued support as we continue to lobby Central Government for a fair funding deal for public services and for the residents and businesses of East Sussex.

If you'd like to read the budget in more detail [you can find it here](https://democracy.eastsussex.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=150&MId=2580&Ver=4)
<https://democracy.eastsussex.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=150&MId=2580&Ver=4>.
You can also watch [the debate of Council here](http://eastsussex.public-i.tv/core/portal/webcast_interactive/200454)
http://eastsussex.public-i.tv/core/portal/webcast_interactive/200454

Many thanks,

Keith

Councillor Keith Glazier
Leader
East Sussex County Council