

**Date:** 7<sup>th</sup> December 2017

**Title:** Report Item 4 – Business in Progress

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

**Purpose:** To provide an update on progress since the November meeting

**Recommendations:** To note the progress report

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The following are requests for further instructions arising from the November council meeting:

- **The Mowing Contract** – ESCC has notified the parish that its contributions for verge cutting may cease after 2018. However, the Lead Member for Finance recommends that the parish should still invite tenders for a three-year period. The Gilbert Estate and the Greensward Company and Residents' Association (as agents for the Company) are being consulted about the continued inclusion of privately owned village greens in the contract. Updated tender documents have been circulated, assuming no change to the specification. The council is recommended to approve the tender documents for issue to prospective contractors. [Note: ESCC will also need to approve the choice of contractor for verge cutting].
- **Play area upgrade** – Southern Gas have offered a donation of £1,000 plus labour towards the replacement of the play area fence. This is a goodwill gesture in recognition of the disruption caused by the replacement of the gas main on the Downlands Estate. The council is recommended to accept this offer. An order has been placed with Wicksteed for them to repair/maintain the existing Fitness Trail.

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

- **Installation of seat on Greensward** – the replacement seat has been delivered and Cllr Clarke has kindly fixed it in position. The Gardening Club has been informed, and the council's insurers have paid £371.25 on the claim.
- **Cliff safety notice** – the parish council has contacted the National Trust in support of the provision of improved cliff safety notices at Birling Gap. *The Trust has responded: 'We are aware of these concerns and are currently conducting a review of our current signage and exploring other options to improve the safety message - including working as part of a partnership of cliff top land owners. We will take your ... concerns into account when conducting that review.'*
- **Controlled crossing on A259 in East Dean** – this is to be raised with ESCC at the next liaison meeting
- **30 mph speed limit** – this is already a standing item on the ESCC liaison agenda
- **Yellow lines at north end of Gilberts Drive** – this is to be raised with ESCC after the present scheme is complete
- **Light shield on pedestrian refuse** – this too is to be raised at the next ESCC liaison meeting
- **Electronic signs at bus stops** – Brighton and Hove Buses have been asked (in a neutral way) whether there are plans to introduce digital signage at the bus stops in the A259 in East Dean.

- **Other Highway reports** - (1) the blocked road drain half way down Friston Hill on the south side (Case Number 00169379) should be cleared by early December; (2) the blocked manhole in Upper Street (Case Number 00170281) should also be cleared shortly; (3) a damaged road sign support post near the A259 Gilberts Drive junction has also been reported (Case Number 00174529) and the Highway Steward has ordered repairs.
- **Motor bike racing on Birling Gap Road** – a report has been sent to Operation Crackdown (Sussex Police) and logged under reference 396921.
- **Road markings at junction of Micheldene Road and Summerdown Lane** – the Roads Company has been requested to consider altering the road lining when this section of Micheldene Road is next resurfaced, so that vehicles travelling down the road have to pause at the junction, giving some protection to residents exiting driveways lower down.
- **Verges on the Downland Estate** – a reminder about the importance of protecting and respecting verges, most of which are privately owned, has been published in the parish magazine
- **Hedge trimming** – one advisory letter remains outstanding due to a possible change of occupancy
- **Camper vans** – Wealden District Council has advised if a 'no camper vans' sign were added at the main Gate it would need to be a WDC corporate sign and the proposal should be checked with the Gilbert Estate who have had views on signage in the past. The current wooden sign at the main gate was 'very expensive' and WDC would ask the parish to pay for any replacement
- **Tree Warden** – an invitation to fill this vacant post has been sent out and a response is awaited.
- **Library consultation** – the parish council has objected to the proposed withdrawal of the Mobile Library service from East Dean. The consultation only sought responses to a questionnaire, which did not cover the points the parish wished to raise, so the communication was sent to County Cllr Shing, for forwarding to the relevant officer. Cllr Shing is actively campaigning on behalf of those parishes which may lose the service.
- **Councillor allowances consultation**– a response has been sent to the Independent Remuneration Panel confirming that EDF has never paid allowances to its members, and has no plans to do so, but finds it inequitable in principle that members who are co-opted rather than elected are not eligible to receive allowances at all. The Panel has responded that this requirement comes from the underlying legislation, and is a matter over which they have no discretion.
- **Phone mast consultation** – the SDNPA has been advised that the parish council will not comment on the colour of the mast, following the decision of the SDNPA to approve the installation without adjusting the location. It is assumed that the SDNPA Landscape Officer will comment further on the colouring.
- **Quotations** - a contractor has been invited to quote for the following maintenance works: (1) War Memorial railings; (2) [Went Way railings - £280](#); (3) rolling programme of seat maintenance.
- **Best Kept Village sign** - the Gilbert Estate is to be consulted about repainting the sign which is affixed to their wall. [There are several round plaques on the Davies Gilbert flint wall above the door to the old pump house, which the village won over the years and these need repainting in red and gold. There is also the top sign on the wooden post against the wall which is most need of painting. This sign and pole were left with the village as we won the last large BKV before the competition ceased, which is in the most need of some attention.](#)

30/11/2017

[06/12/2017](#)