

Date: 01 October 2020

Title: Report Item 7 – Business in Progress

By: K Larkin (Parish Clerk)

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

Recommendations: To note the progress report

The following item is for decision:

- Play area – the report from Wicksteed on the annual safety inspection has been circulated to councillors and repairs totalling £94.81 are recommended. Wicksteed can carry these out on request. In addition, they should be asked to (1) oil the barrel roll, which residents report has been squeaking loudly; and (2) provide self-closures for the two gates. This is within budget: £485 remains for general maintenance at the recreation ground including the play area.

The following items are matters of report:

- Friston Build-out – this project which began four years ago was finally completed on 18th September, a day ahead of schedule, and buses immediately ran normally again. Pictures of the site, before and after the work, are appended to this report (the white road markings have now been added).
- Financial implications of filling vacancies by election – WDC will provide a cost projection for an election in May 2021 and this will be factored into the draft Budget for 2021/22 which will be on the November agenda.
- Proposed decommissioning of East Dean telephone kiosk – over the summer BT again consulted on the proposed closure of a number of kiosks, including this one. A response was submitted by the clerk on behalf of the council reiterating the objections raised on the previous occasion, and pointing out that during the lockdown the safety implications of removing this phone line would be even greater than before, due to the very poor mobile signals in the parish.
- The Twitten from Upper Street to Friston Church (Footpath 25) – a resident has suffered a fall on the lower section of this path due to the uneven surface caused by protruding tree roots. The responsibility for safety and repair rests with East Sussex County Council Rights of Way, who have been asked to send a maintenance team as a matter of urgency. There are still some diseased elms with Dutch Elm Disease alongside the twitten and ESCC has been requested to act on their removal too.
- Licensing application for The Tiger Inn – representations were made to the Licensing Officer and copied to The Tiger and to the Beachy Head Estate as discussed at the August council meeting. The Licensing Officer asked whether the council's comments constituted a formal objection to the application or not, and was notified that they did not. The premises volunteered an additional condition on the premises licence should the variation be granted: *"The sale and consumption of alcohol within the premises licensed area on the village green will cease at 21:00hrs"*. The licence has been granted, but there have subsequently been

some complaints that it is not clear that tables can be used by all comers, whether or not they are customers of The Tiger, or the Deli, or simply enjoying fresh air. Residents also remain concerned that the village green status of the area is being compromised. The Licensing Officer has stated that if there are valid grounds for objecting to a licence, it may be reviewed and if the objection is upheld it may be revoked. This can happen at any time. To be relevant, objections need to be linked to any of the four licensing objectives: crime and disorder, public safety, public nuisance, or protection of children. The legislation protecting village greens does refer to public nuisance. Section 29 of the Commons Act 1876 makes it a public nuisance to encroach on or enclose a green. Currently, however, special allowance is being made which should enable all local businesses and local facilities around the green to remain open in a Covid-19 secure manner.

- Public Spaces Protection Order – a response has been sent to Wealden District Council's consultation supporting a three year extension of their existing PSPO Order, un-amended
- ESCC Grass Cutting Agreement – replacement Agreements are yet to be signed and sent to ESCC
- Footpath 24 – the ESCC Rights of Way team have now scheduled the replacement of the vandalised safety barrier to take place in September.

Annex A – Friston Build-out



