

Date: 06 January 2022

Title: Report Item 6 – Business in Progress

By: K Larkin (Parish Clerk)

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

Recommendations: To note the report by the Clerk

The following are matters of report:

- Village Design Statement – the project to update the VDS has been referred to the Planning Committee
- Flint wall in Downlands Way – the Hon. Solicitor is investigating ownership. In the meantime, some correspondence has been received from the Local History Group and from a resident arguing that the wall should not be demolished
- CIL application for pavement from Old Willingdon Road to Windmill Lane – the proposals drawn up in 2014 are being reviewed and costed
- CIL application for reinstating Downs View Lane bus stop in a new and safer location – East Sussex Highways have very kindly offered to undertake this work at no cost at all to the parish, which is very much appreciated
- Risk Management Strategy – this is to be updated and reissued
- Emergency Plan – this is to be reviewed in the New Year.

Due to the Christmas break, and the early circulation of papers for the January council meeting, some matters are still ongoing from earlier meetings:

- a) Saving phone boxes - <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/technology-59219078> says that Ofcom will not allow BT to decommission a phone box if it meets certain needs criteria, including if it is at an accident or suicide blackspot and if the location is not served by ALL FOUR mobile networks. The council is recommended to make a formal approach to BT and Ofcom to check that the boxes at Birling Gap and Gilberts Drive are protected and maintained in working order.
- b) Footpath 26a/27 – the lack of action over the potential loss of the right of way accessed adjacent to the entrance to Birling Manor was raised again at the SLR meeting on 14th October, and an update is awaited from ESCC Rights of Way.
- c) Bank mandate – the clerk/RFO has yet to add the Vice Chair to the mandate
- d) Footpath 5 (Friston Forest) – the concerns raised by a resident, plus recommended improvements to the signage, have been referred to the ESCC Rights of Way team. A response is still awaited. This was raised again at the Strengthening Local Relationships meeting on 14 October 2021.

- e) Tree safety survey and insurance – an enquiry has been sent to the Highway Land Information team at county hall regarding the ownership and responsibility for maintenance of the trees at Friston Green which stand on the highway verge. A response is still awaited.