

**Date:** 07 July 2022

**Title:** Report Item 16 – Correspondence

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

**Purpose:** To report on correspondence received since the council meeting on 09 June 2022

**Recommendations:** To note the report

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**Note:** more items may be added to this schedule prior to the council meeting on 7 July 2022; a copy of the final version can be obtained by emailing the Clerk: [clerk@edfparishcouncil.org.uk](mailto:clerk@edfparishcouncil.org.uk)

The following items of correspondence have been received:

- **Downlands Estate** – the council has been contacted by the Residents' Association with concerns about the decline in presentation of some parts of the Downlands Estate, in the hope that some improvement can be initiated through joint action. The RA is concerned to clarify the ownership of the Estate Roads, which is not uniform; to address the problem of escalating road maintenance costs, which the annual subscriptions from residents do not cover; and to improve road safety, especially along Micheldene Road from its junction with Elven Lane down to the A259. The road safety problems include parking that obscures the junction with Elven Lane, encroaching hedges, the condition of the roadside bank near the Estate entrance, the persistence of hoardings at a property near the A259 junction; and recently the chaining of a bike to the Estate entrance gate. The parish council is requested to devote time to a discussion at a future council meeting. The Chair has agreed that this can be done in consultation with the Roads Company who have already raised a number of these issues, and that in the meantime a report can be produced compiling background information on the issues raised.
- **Drone Code** – a resident has expressed concern about the recent use of a drone by an estate agent employed to market a property on the Downlands Estate. The agent has been contacted and is aware of the Drone Code published by the Civil Aviation Authority. The agent is keen not to cause concern among residents and only to use drones in a very controlled way with no overflying and in full compliance with the code.
- **Dog poo at the recreation ground** – a complaint has come in from a resident (via the Residents' Association) that although the field has normally remained clean, recently there has been a significant increase, particularly along the west and south

sides of the field. The council is requested to put up notices. These should draw attention to Wealden District Council's Fouling of Land by Dogs Order 2012.

- **Road signage for Jevington Road closures** – a resident has complained that there is insufficient notice of the times when the Jevington Road will be closed for works, and has requested improved advance information. Some information is available on websites, including the parish council website, but actual road signage is also requested.
- **Maintenance of the play area** – a resident has reported some defects with two swing seats and the 'spider web' and these have been reported to Wicksteed who provide and can maintain most of the equipment. The annual safety inspection has been ordered from Wicksteed but is unlikely to take place before August. The council is requested to bring forward the replacement of the swing seat(s). The spider web is part of the Kanope multiplay climber supplied by Proludic who are being contacted about its repair.
- **The War Memorial** – a visitor to the parish has expressed an interest in the fact that a woman is memorialised, which is unusual. The visitor is being put in touch with the Local History Group who have produced a leaflet on the persons memorialised.
- **Village Design statement** – a resident has enquired about the status of the current VDS, and what the procedure will be for updating it. The Chair of Planning has advised that the South Downs National Park Authority do still regard it as a policy document to take into account, even though technically it is out of date. It is being updated as a stand-alone document and a draft will be considered by the Planning Committee at their next meeting on 19th July 2022, and will then come to full council for approval at the meeting on 4<sup>th</sup> August 2022. There will then be full consultation as before, and the timing of that will be in the hands of the SDNPA.
- **Roadside bank on A259 Friston Hill** – the occupants of a property adjoining the steep section of highway verge on Friston Hill have complained that it has once again been missed from the strimming done recently by ESCC Highways' contractor. The residents have complained to the Highways customer service manager
- **Damaged litter bin at East Dean bus stop** – the council has been contacted by a resident or visitor wanting to know what will be done about the damaged bin. The bin is damaged beyond repair and needs to be removed. The question then is: will the council replace it or not? There is no budget for this in 2022/23.