

**Date:** 06 October 2022

**Title:** Report Item 18 – Correspondence

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

**Purpose:** To report on correspondence received since the council meeting on 4 August 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 6 October 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:

- **Mobile post office** – a resident has enquired about the prospects for a mobile post office coming to the village. The obstacles have been explained – they come from decisions by the central Post Office and are not due to any unwillingness on the part of the parish council to get involved.
- **Speed limit on A259** - a resident has contacted the council to press for a reduction in the speed limit to 30 mph and has been assured that the council is actively campaigning for this. The same resident has queried the placement of informal signage on the eastbound carriageway of Friston Hill but intends to put an informal 'blind exit 100 yards' sign on the westbound carriageway. There has been a further enquiry from a resident following another accident on 17 September, when a car hit the bollard by the crossing point between the two parts of the village. The Residents' Association has also reported a number of residents expressing concerns and is in full support of a reduction in the speed limit. The RA would support the council in publicising a petition, for example, and will write to Maria Caulfield MP.
- **Vandalism of village flagpole** – it has been reported by the flagmaster that over the August Bank Holiday weekend the flagpole was vandalised and the Ukrainian flag was torn down. The flagpole was repaired by councillors and a new Ukrainian flag was swiftly ordered. The culprit turned out to be a minor whose parents have apologised for the damage and no further action is to be taken.
- **East Dean bus shelter (A259 north side)** – a resident has queried why there is currently no glass in the windows?
- **Burnt out bin at East Dean bus shelter (north side)** – over the summer a resident queried whether this bin was to be removed, and whether it would be replaced. The

bin has now been removed, and currently there is no proposal to replace it. There is another bin in the same location.

- **Closure of The Drove** – a resident has complained about the closure of The Drove which she believes to be a public right of way. The parish council spent several years asserting this right and contesting the closure, from 2016 to 2018, but was unable to provide proof that the Gilbert Estate had not closed the path without notice for at least one day a year, thus demonstrating ownership and that use of the path by the public was only permissive. The implication for walkers is that the path is marked as a public right of way on maps and GPS systems (e.g. Komoot), so when a path is closed off such as this one, it can often require a frustrating detour or a re-trace of steps for quite a distance.
- **UK Ultra running event** – the council has been advised that the next date proposed for this running event to pass through the village will be on 28<sup>th</sup> May 2023. As on previous occasions, there will be an aid station located in the village hall. The organisers are seeking formal confirmation that the council has no objection.
- **Jevington Road prolonged closures and need for maintenance** – a resident has written to Maria Caulfield MP (copy to the parish council) criticising the management of the gas main works which have led to intermittent closures of sections of the Jevington Road for over a year and still have some way to go before completion. The resident is also rightly critical of the state of the road which is now so bad that many motorists routinely drive on the wrong side, which is particularly hazardous on this narrow and winding road. The problems are also putting stress on alternative routes which also tend to be of a similar type.
- **Loss of passing place in Downs View Lane** – a resident has complained that the reinstatement of the passing place has reached deadlock. As the Roads Company is only responsible for the road surface, it has no power to insist on its reinstatement, even though it has been established that the former bay does not form part of the curtilage of the adjacent property. However, Downs View Lane is fully accessible to the public, and the loss of the passing place is a matter of road safety. Vehicles now have to drive off road, much nearer the junction with the A259, in order to allow incoming vehicles to pass. The resident requests that the Highways Authority be consulted again.