

Date: 01 December 2022

Title: Report Item 13 – Downlands Estate Management

By: Councillor P Seeley (Chairman)

Purpose: To report on a meeting held between the Parish Council, Residents' Association, and the Roads Company on 15th November 2022.

Recommendations: To note and discuss the report

I set out below actions arising from a meeting held between the Parish Council (attendees Cllr Lees, Cllr Thorogood and Cllr Seeley), Residents Association (attendees Lesley D'Urso and Bob Salmon) and the Roads Company (attendees Robert Corbett and David Lockyer).

The note gives a flavour of the constructive dialogue between all three organisations, and I feel it is the duty of the Parish Council to consider next steps.

Actions: RA Residents Association; RC Roads Co.; PC Parish Council:

1. Roads Company confirmed South Coast Tyres were the company responsible for developing Gore Farm Close and they own the first length of Michel Dene Road between the A259 and the white estate fence. Contact to be made with the company to ascertain what the dispute is between them and the owners of Longview **Action: RA / RC.**
2. Hedge at junction of Michel Dene Road and Wenthill Close to be removed due to safety reasons. Joint letter to go to owner from all three bodies **Action: PC.**
3. Can the Downlands Estate adopt ESCC working methods and implement them? Legal opinion required once standards understood and possible impact. **Action: PC.**
4. Levy for building work. One of the conditions (Covenants) appears to allow the Roads Company to review planning applications and possibly introduce such a fee. Legitimacy and legal position needs reviewing and a letter sent to SDNP Planning. **Action: PC and RC.**

5. Potholes and road condition to be reviewed and if there is sufficient work Hailsham Roadways to be tasked with work. Otherwise consider temporary repair using local contacts. **Action: All.**
6. Roads Co needs help otherwise it will fold. Push in village to seek additional Directors and assistance. RA and PC to utilise their data bases and the Parish Magazine to bring the issue to residents' attention **Action: All.**
7. Can the annual levy be collected via the rates system? This has been looked at but needs revisiting. **Action: PC.**
8. Can the Roads Co be rolled up into the PC? **Action: PC.**
9. What about setting up a Community Interest Company which may be a vehicle to assist other organisations within the village? This has been considered before and should be revisited. **Action: PC**
10. Eastbourne BC has not paid RC monies due for last two years (£500 / annum) for Downs View Lane. Letter needs to go to Chief Executive at Eastbourne. **Action: RC.**
11. Discussion held over employing a professional firm to manage the estate (similar to some estates elsewhere in the south east). Alternative is to pay for an estate manager. Further discussion required once more detail and evidence is available. **Action: All.**
12. Quarterly meeting to be held between PC, RA and RC. Agreed it will be held after Parish Council Planning meeting. Dates to be circulated **Action: PC.**