

Date: 01 December 2022

Title: Report Item 18 – Correspondence

By: K Larkin (Parish Clerk)

Purpose: To report on correspondence received since the council meeting on 03 November 2022

Recommendations: To note the report

Note: more items may be added to this schedule prior to the council meeting on 1 December 2022; a copy of the final version can be obtained by emailing the Clerk: clerk@edfparishcouncil.org.uk

The following items of correspondence have been received:

- **Request to dig up driveway to upgrade Openreach fibre broadband** – a resident has reported being asked by an employee of a third party company for permission to install high speed broadband using the existing Openreach (BT) ducting buried beneath his (and most of the neighbours') front garden and driveway. The caller asked for written permission but provided no documentation about the company he represented and the purpose of the work to be completed. The form offered for signature was quite vague and the resident was concerned that he might be giving permission for a lot more disruption than he had been led to believe. Rightly, he did not sign. Further enquiries show that it is difficult to contact BT Openreach to get proper information, and the eventual response is that householders should not sign anything without previously receiving proper paperwork.
- **Sign blown away at Birling Gap** – the National Trust has reported that a sign at Birling Gap directing passers-by to 'East Dean – The Tiger – Shops' has blown away but has been rescued and stored by them. It is thought that the sign may belong to the Gilbert Estate who have been informed.
- **Speed Restrictions in East Dean and Friston** – a response has been received from the Leader of East Sussex County Council to the letter sent by the Chair of the parish council. A copy is appended to this report. There appears to be scope for ordering a feasibility study, though an actual project would need to be match funded and would probably require grant aid.

APPENDIX

From: Councillor Keith Glazier [REDACTED]
Sent: 23 November 2022 10:09
To: Paul
Cc: clerk@edfparishcouncil.org.uk
Subject: RE: SPEED RESTRICTIONS IN EAST DEAN AND FRISTON

Dear Councillor Seeley,

Thank you for your email detailing the request from East Dean and Friston Parish Council to have 20mph speed limits in the private estate Downsview and the roads that lead off of Gilberts Drive.

There has recently been a lot of interest in the introduction of widespread 20mph speed limits in nearby Counties. A Notice of Motion for an authority-wide default 20mph speed limit for urban and village roads was considered by the Lead Member for Transport and Environment under Item 6 of their meeting on 21 June, 2021. At the meeting the Lead Member resolved to recommend to the County Council to:

1. reject the notice of motion to set an authority-wide default 20mph speed limit for urban and village roads.
2. note the County Councils speed limit policy is in line with current central government guidance, including our approach to 20 mph speed limits.
3. note that those urban and village roads that demonstrate a history of personal injury crashes will continue to be identified and appropriate road safety measures introduced, which may include 20mph speed limits, if the scheme is of sufficient priority for funding from the County Council's capital allocation for local transport schemes; and
4. note that, where appropriate, the Council will continue to support 20mph speed limit schemes funded externally or, where possible, through our community match programme.

Further information can be found in the report that was presented at the Lead Member meeting ([Agenda for Lead Member for Transport and Environment on Monday, 21st June, 2021, 10.00 am | East Sussex County Council](#))

The Notice of Motion with an amendment for 'a costed plan for implementation, that would enable immediate action as and when funds or opportunities to apply for funds become available' for an authority-wide default 20mph speed limit for urban and village roads was considered under Item 25, of the Full Council meeting on 23 July, 2021. A recorded vote on the amended motion was requested and taken and the Motion lost. A link to the Full Council meeting is also provided [Agenda for Full Council on Friday, 23rd July, 2021, 10.00 am | East Sussex County Council](#)

The latest available evidence indicates that a default 20mph speed limit would not make best use of our resources, and that targeted interventions are more effective. Each year the County Council develops and implements numerous local transport improvements funded through the capital programme. In 2021/22 total funding of £8.426m was allocated which will deliver over 50 schemes and studies across the county which include a number of road safety and active travel improvements.

The County Council has a limited amount of funding available to develop local transport improvements. To help us prioritise the numerous scheme requests that we receive, including 20mph speed limits, a scheme prioritisation process has been developed to help us to determine which schemes should be selected for funding from the County Council's capital allocation and potential inclusion in our capital programme of local transport improvements. This process is in alignment with the key objectives of the East Sussex County Council Local Transport Plan 2011 - 2026. The content of the programme is considered by the Lead Member for Transport and Environment on an annual basis

I am pleased to report that a member of the Traffic and Safety team has looked at the latest available crash record for the roads where a 20mph has been requested by the Parish Council. There have been no crashes recorded for the previous five-year period, a scheme to implement lower speed limits on these roads would therefore not be a priority for funding through our capital programme.

We are aware that 20mph speed limits are often well supported by local communities. The County Council will therefore continue to support the introduction of 20mph speed limits, where these are funded externally or through the Community Match Programme and, where possible, support local communities and Parish Council's to implement such schemes.

The Community Match Programme is managed by our Highways department. If the Parish Council wish to explore the feasibility of reducing the speed limit in the village further, details of the scheme can be found on their website at: [Community Match \(eastsussexhighways.com\)](https://www.eastsussexhighways.com). Part of the Community Match application process requires a Feasibility Study to be commissioned through East Sussex Highways, at a cost of £500 plus VAT and speed surveys may also be required at a cost of £422 plus VAT per site.

Although I acknowledge that you will be disappointed with my reply, I trust that it helps to clarify the current position and I thank you for writing to me about this matter.

Yours sincerely

Councillor Keith Glazier

Leader

