

Date: 02 February 2023

Title: Report Item 14 – Correspondence

By: K Larkin (Parish Clerk)

Purpose: To report on correspondence received since the council meeting on 05 January 2023

Recommendations: To note the report and consider any further actions in response to the correspondence

Note: more items may be added to this schedule prior to the council meeting on 2 February 2023; 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:

- **Trees at The Grange** – assurance has been received from The Grange that the trees overhanging the village hall car park have been surveyed by a qualified arborist. They are in the process of tendering out the works on the trees and have already had a site visit from one contractor and will keep the council posted with what action they are taking. They will also ensure any contractor they choose gains the necessary permits/permissions prior to commencing any works on the trees. They will do their utmost only to do necessary tree works as it is in no-one's interests to remove healthy trees which do not pose a safety risk.
- **Maintenance of a triangle of grass between Micheldene Road and The Link** – a resident has contacted the parish council and the Residents Association saying that he has personally maintained this area for the benefit of the community, for the past 34 years, but now intends to stop. The area seems to belong to a parcel of land comprising the triangle itself and the adjacent sections of the three roads that lead to it (The Link and part of Summerdown Lane and Micheldene Road). This land parcel was formerly owned by Fairway Homes (East Dean) Ltd. Following the dissolution of that company the land will now be under the aegis of the Treasury Solicitor, who will not do anything that can be construed as maintenance. The council is requested to consider further action.
- **Wildlife Verge corridors through the parish** - a resident has requested that the parish council apply to East Sussex Highways to have all the highway verges in the parish registered as wildlife corridors. *Note by the Clerk:* The verges within the 30 mph zone, i.e. in the centre of the parish, are covered by the parish council's mowing contract which runs for three years at a time, and 2023 is the third of the current

cycle. The parish council will expect to go out to tender this autumn, ready for the 2024, 2025, 2026 contract. East Sussex Highways maintain all the verges in the parish outside the 30 mph zone, i.e. they cover Friston Hill and the Beachy Head Road. Eastbourne Hill is outside the parish boundary. This summer, after the parish elections, the new council can be asked to consider whether it would like to make amendments to the tender documents. Provided this is done before the end of August, there will be time to apply to ESCC to put any sections they consider suitable under their Wildlife or Meadow Verge initiative. This might or might not create a corridor right through the parish. In the centre of the parish, the council's mowing contractor currently does 10 cuts of the verges per growing season, to keep the centre of the village tidy. Maintenance by ESCC would reduce that to two cuts per year, as is currently the norm on Friston Hill and the Beachy Head Road. Inclusion in the Wildlife or Meadow verge scheme would reduce that to one cut a year. Residents should have an opportunity to comment.

- **Speed Signs** – a resident has requested Wealden District Council to introduce a Public Spaces Protection Order to cover the A259 East Dean Road, Gilberts Drive and Birling Gap Road, to extend to them the benefits of the PSPO imposed by Eastbourne Borough Council on the Beachy Head Road. The parish council has also lobbied for a Wealden PSPO, at least on the Birling Gap Road, but without success. The resident also requests an update on the provision of speed reactive signs on the A259 [East Sussex Highways have advised that there are no suitable locations]. Thirdly, the resident reiterates a complaint made at the Annual Village Meeting 2022 that speed reactive signs can be misused to log excessive speed.
- **Energy Plan** – a resident has enquired about progress with this item which appears in the Parish Action Plan under Environmental Actions. A Carbon Impact report on the parish has been obtained as included in the agenda for this council meeting.
- **Wind Turbine** a resident has requested an update on the suggestion made at the Annual Village Meeting 2022 that the provision of a wind turbine in the parish be considered. This too appears in the Parish Action Plan in the Environmental section. Wind turbines come in a range of sizes: the bigger the turbine the greater the energy generated, but the bigger the amount of land required, and the greater the cost. For example, a 1MW wind turbine would cost approx. £1.25 million and require at least a 2 acre site. Ofgem estimates the typical household in Britain uses **2,900 kWh** of electricity and 12,000 kWh of gas in a year, so in a parish with approx. 700 homes using an estimated 2,030,000 kWh of electricity per year in total, the 1MW turbine would power about half the parish's needs. On a more domestic scale, a single small turbine (say 1.5kW) can be installed as permitted development provided the property does not already have a wind turbine or an air source heat pump. It costs £7,000 and will supply about 2,600kWh per year. The amount of clear space around it must be equivalent to the height of the turbine plus 10%. Here is a link to the planning advice: <https://www.planningportal.co.uk/permission/common-projects/wind-turbines/planning-permission-stand-alone-wind-turbines>
- **Church notice board in the Downlands Way precinct** – a request has been received on behalf of East Dean Church for the notice board shown in green on the photo below to be removed, and for a new board of similar size to be put in its place by and for the church:



- **Celebrating the Coronation of King Charles III** – the Residents Association has contacted the council to ask whether there would be any objection to them arranging anything to mark the occasion, as the council is not proposing to do so. Any event would not be on the scale of the Jubilee celebrations.
- **Village Fete 2023** – the Residents Association has announced that the theme for this year's fete will be 'Community' and that the idea is to promote the community and all that goes on in it. The council is invited to confirm that it will book a stall. The council has set aside a budget of £275 to support the Fete in 2023.