

Date: 02 February 2023

Title: Report Item 7 – Business in Progress

By: K Larkin (Parish Clerk)

Purpose: To provide an update on progress since the January meeting

Recommendations: To note a report by the Clerk on progress made since the January meeting, and:

- a) To approve donations of £150 each to the Parochial Church Council and the Village Hall Trust to defray the cost of providing Warm Spaces in the community until the end of March 2023
- b) Bollards in Gilberts Drive at the junction with the A259 – to approve payment of an application fee of £404 for a licence to dig the verge and install bollards.
- c) To consider purchasing an Emergency and Resilience Plan template from the East Sussex Association of Local Councils at a cost of £120

The following are matters for decision:

- a) To approve donations of £150 each to the Parochial Church Council and the Village Hall Trust to defray the cost of providing Warm Spaces in the community until the end of March 2023. Both bodies have made arrangements to run this initiative, and sponsorship could make it free to users.
- b) Bollards in Gilberts Drive at the junction with the A259 – to approve payment of an application fee of £404 for a licence to dig the verge and install bollards. The intention would be to prevent vehicles parking near the junction.
- c) To consider purchasing an Emergency and Resilience Plan template from the East Sussex Association of Local Councils at a cost of £120 – in October 2022 the council considered an offer from the East Sussex Association of Local Councils for their Emergency Plan Project Manager to review the parish's emergency plan in the light of a potential energy or water supply crisis. The cost was projected at £50 per hour for 2-5 hours work. EDFPC agreed to take up this offer. However, the project has proved unworkable, and ESALC has concluded that it would be easier to provide parishes with a Resilience and Emergency Plan template to be filled in locally. The template would come with additional information regarding flyers for volunteers and access to grants. The price for the package would be £120, plus (if help is still required) a payment of £50 per hour to ESALC's Emergency Plan Project Manager.

The following are matters for report:

- State of the Jevington Road (ESCC Case Number 00771847) – the parish council has requested an urgent update owing to the dreadful state of the road, and the separate issue

of flooding at the junction with Old Willingdon Road and the A259 due to a blocked drain, which led to a serious accident on black ice on 17 January 2023. A response is awaited.

- Installation of bike racks in the village car park – a request has been sent to Wealden District Council for this to be considered. It has the support of Cllr Lunn.
- Street cleaning – WDC has been requested to supply information about which streets in the parish they are responsible for cleaning. They have replied that the district and county councils are only responsible for adopted highways, so within EDF this is mainly the A259 and the roads south of this, i.e. Upper Street and Lower Street and the first 109m of Crowlink Lane. With regards to maintenance and cleansing, Wealden is responsible for sweeping the road/footpath (where applicable) and also litter picking. Anything that is to do with maintenance, repairs, drainage including clearing within the road gulleys is down to East Sussex Highways to maintain. The A259 was cleansed with a mechanical sweeper on 18 January. Other adopted roads look to be around late February and March. In general Wealden have a 12-24 week schedule depending on location but can raise worksheets for a specific area if additional work is required following a visit by a Street Scene Officer. Unfortunately, following the work done on 18 January it has been reported that the gutter on the A259 in the vicinity of the Old Village Hall is more filled with debris than ever, and the Street Scene Officer has been informed. A further problem is that a road gully at the entrance to Gore Farm Close is filled with debris and appears to have been missed in a recent drain clearing exercise. This has been reported to East Sussex Highways [Ref: 00779719]
- East Sussex Pension Fund draft Funding Strategy Statement – a nil return has been sent to ESPF by the Chair (i.e. the parish council has no comments but has studied the FSS)
- Downlands Estate Management – the Hon. Solicitor has been requested to advise on the potential for creating a Community Interest Company for this purpose, and raising additional funds, and as a first step has requested further information about the Estate covenants. The Working Group has this in hand.
- Outstanding Highway matters – there are several matters which are not progressing through the SLR (Strengthening Local Relationships) meetings with East Sussex Highways. They include the provision of signage at Cophall Lane indicating that it is a No Through Road; the use of the wide grass verge at The Fridays for parking, despite there being no dropped kerb; and the parish's request for a Public Spaces Protection Order to cover the Birling Gap Road as well as the Beachy Head Road. All these matters come wholly or partly under Wealden District Council rather than the county council and are being pursued with District Cllr Lunn