

**Date:** 18 May 2023

**Title:** Report Item 13 – Correspondence

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

**Purpose:** To report on correspondence received since the council meeting on 06 April 2023

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

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**Note:** more items may be added to this schedule prior to the council meeting on 18 May 2023; 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:

- **Reduction in council precept 2023/24** – a resident has thanked the council for managing the council finances in such a way that the PC element of the Council tax actually reduced this year.
- **Village energy survey** – following the Annual Village Meeting a resident has asked for an update on this and two related actions which were requested at the AVM 2022. Each item has been discussed at a council meeting during the past year, and here is an overview. The suggested energy prototype comes from the parish of Balcombe in West Sussex which has a website [www.repowerbalcombe.com](http://www.repowerbalcombe.com). The project **REPOWERBalcombe 1 Co-operative Limited** is ‘an Industrial Provident Society for the benefit of the community’ registered at an enterprise centre in Barrow-in-Furness. Balcombe originally hit the headlines as a place where Cuadrilla was planning to do fracking, which galvanised local people into opposition, drawing in protestors from outside the community as well, and leading to the founding of this clean energy project. Unfortunately the project ran into financial difficulties which were blamed on changes in government policy that made green enterprises more expensive to invest in. The project still exists but in a modified form and its links with any particular community have been loosened. This link to the project webpage gives information about the team of people now running it: <https://www.repowerbalcombe.com/team/>. It is not council led. It does look like the kind of project one would very much wish to see succeed, but the three kinds of input it needs are (1) the involvement of individuals who can bring technical expertise; (2) business leaders who can bring finance or management skills to the project; and (3)

sites for energy projects. It is focused on providing community-owned, locally generated energy through clean, renewable technologies, and encouraging the move away from climate-changing fossil fuels. It has been running since 2013 and depends on individual initiatives by local businesses, schools and other landowners, all striving to reach the same end. It is an excellent example and does depend on long-term local collaboration, such as the parish council might encourage but cannot require. However, some data is available to undertake a local energy survey as a starting point. The parish council will wish to support practical action by local people.

- **Local Carbon Impact Report**– Also following the AVM 2022, a Carbon Impact Report has been obtained for the parish, from the Centre for Sustainable Energy, and was discussed at the council meeting on 2 February 2023. Here is a link to the report: <https://impacttool.org.uk/report?regionId=E04003838&geography=parish>

The report covered two main ways of calculating carbon impact, namely:

- household consumption - capturing all the emissions produced as a result of all the activities local residents engage in, regardless of where geographically the emissions occur, i.e. the production of the food they eat, the manufacture of their clothes and household items, the generation of fuel for heating, travel, etc.. On this measure, the parish has significantly higher consumption than the Wealden average.
- territorial footprint – capturing all the emissions directly produced in the parish i.e. if there were a factory in the parish, its emissions would count towards the territorial footprint, regardless of where the products were actually consumed. On this measure, the parish has a relatively low footprint.

In discussion of these findings at the council meeting on 2 February 2023, it was agreed that although the evidence was based on hard data, its interpretation and use would not be straightforward. For example, emissions from personal transport in the parish were relatively high, but this was inevitable due to the location of the parish in a rural area, and one which attracted tourists. The council was already subsidising a local bus service and promoting other green transportation. Members were unanimous that the council's priority must be to keep its own house in order by making improvements within its powers. It did not have power, and would not wish to dictate to residents what they should consume in their own homes. Each household must make its own decisions. However, the report was publicly available as a resource for those who wished to use the data to guide their personal decision making. The council resolved that the Carbon Impact report for the parish be noted, and that regard be had to its data in framing future resolutions of the council

- **Wind Turbine** – the third suggestion made at the Annual Village Meeting 2022 was that the provision of a wind turbine in the parish be considered, and the council has duly investigated this [2 February 2023] 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>

- **Update on resurfacing the Jevington Road** - East Sussex Highways report that the Jevington Road between Friston and Wannock will receive a full resurfacing following the completion of the gas main works. Currently they are looking at completing this in June, confirmation of dates will be sent out to all nearer the time. In regard to drainage, they have large works planned to the carriageway, and if following this the road continues to flood, they request to be made aware so they can investigate further.
- **Replacement of bus shelter window** – a resident has requested the replacement of the missing window in the East Dean bus shelter. Elderly residents for whom bus transport is essential have been wet and cold whilst waiting in recent months.
- **South East water meter cover outside the village hall** - A visitor to the parish suffered an accident when a large manhole cover near the entrance to the car park gave way beneath him. Liability seems to rest with South East Water but the parish council and the Village Hall Trust have been informed.