

Draft subject to amendment or correction

CHAILEY PARISH COUNCIL

Liaison Meeting with ESCC Highways, February 13th 2017

Present: Parish Cllrs Mark Evans; Ken Jordan
Officers: Ian Johnson; Rob Stevens
County Cllr Jim Sheppard

Apologies: None

1 Minutes from the meeting on October 17th 2016 and matters arising

- Mark Evans confirmed that the Parish Council had received useful information on Parking signs; the Sports Pavilion was about to be refurbished and further action would be delayed until building work was complete
- Manhole cover: Rob Stevens confirmed the cover had been marked up by SouthEast Water, but to date no further action

2 Warrs Hill Footpath: update on progress towards completion in July-August All Councillors present emphasised to Ian Johnson (as representing Highways) dissatisfaction with the lack of information about progress. It had been confirmed the Scheme was fully funded, a survey had been completed (but to date no results made public) and residents at the New Heritage were justifiably bewildered that mothers with prams, and young people, still found themselves in the middle of a narrow road when walking down to the A275 (bus-stop, shopping and small café).

Ian Johnson has since e-mailed the (brief) brief which reached him after the meeting:

Consulting with: *Chailey Commons: no significant objections.*
Natural England: CH2M to meet with them to obtain consent.

We anticipate applying for Secretary of State approval in March/April 2017.

The design: detailed design for the footway is progressing with Stuart at CH2M.

We are still looking at a late Summer/Autumn construction.

Action: Parish Council to communicate with Chris Tree

3 South Street: identification of ways (including speed notification device) to enforce safer driving on A275 through South Chailey

Considerable discussion followed, taking up suggestions made by residents to improve their safety (and the safety of others) along the stretch of highway from the 40mph restriction entering Chailey at the South to Markstakes. Councillors spoke of the frequentation of the footpath, of the dangers of crossing the road to the Stores, and of the lack of pedestrian crossings in the residential area and at Mill Lane.

Ken Jordan spoke of residents' concerns and the value of speed cameras which record prosecutable evidence and there was also discussion of Speed indicator devices (which do not record any offence but remind motorists of the limit).

Specifically, Ian Johnson and Rob Stevens agreed to place, or refresh, 40mph roundels through the stretch and to refresh the hatching alongside the Stores. Ian stated however that he could not justify the expense of coloured tarmac.

Action: Ian Johnson/Rob Stevens

Ian also reminded the meeting of the value of *Operation Crackdown*, where the Police follow up reports of speeding and similar concerns of anti-social driving.

Action: Chailey News & website

Ian mentioned that Rotherfield PC has acquired at their own expense a mobile speed indicator device (which needs to be licensed by Highways) but can be moved from one site to another within the village.

Action: Parish Council to seek assessment from Rotherfield PC

Electronic devices: Ian would send a request to the Sussex Safer Roads Partnership for them to assess for a speed camera on the A275 through South Street, asking that they respond to the Parish Council.

Action already confirmed by Ian Johnson

Ian Johnson agreed to forward our concerns about speeding and about motorbikes on a Sunday to the Traffic Management Officer for Sussex Police to consider from an enforcement point of view.

Action already confirmed by Ian Johnson

Finally, in response to a resident's concern, Mark Evans asked how to revive the project to place a pedestrian refuge to cross the road in the residential area. The first project had been engineered to solve not just a crossing but also a traffic turn into Mill Lane and had been too expensive for the Parish Council to match funding. Ian explained that Community Match had been rethought and it was possible for the Council to apply for a feasibility study, at a cost of £500-£1,000 to re-consider the placing and focus of the project. Any project thus developed would be subject to consideration by a panel and relevant Safety Audits before any approval. **Action: Parish Council**

4 Chailey Litterpickers: temporary signage on road and permanent signing – regulations and Highways' assistance

Ian Johnson confirmed that Lewes District Council were responsible for litter along the highway. He was not particularly aware of any signage produced by Highways or of rulings. He would expect Lewes District Council to advise on signage at lay-bys or elsewhere. **Action: Parish Council**

5 Footpath: St Peter's School to Church crossing at Chailey Green – overgrowth.

Rob Stevens asked to know who owned the field alongside this pathway **Action: Mark Evans**

6 Any Other Business

- **Value of such meetings** Mark Evans drew attention to the value placed by the Parish Council on these meetings, recently the object of a Survey. The Council valued the meetings for two reasons: direct discussion of problems allowed the Council to explain why an apparently small problem was important to residents; but importantly meetings allowed the Council to learn and understand Highways' thinking and philosophy. He asked Ian Johnson to pass on these views. **Action already confirmed by Ian Johnson**
- **Access into and from Hazeldene and Coldharbour Lanes:** there is a wide verge and there did not appear to be a problem caused by parking along the verge to restrict visibility when exiting; similarly with access – if it was suggested that the road signs be brought forward onto the verge, this would be the responsibility of Lewes District Council. **For information**
- Mark Evans drew Rob Stevens' attention to a 45mph repeater sign, uprooted (he did not know from where) lying by the A275 just North of the crossroads **Action: Rob Stevens**
- Mark Evans requested **advice on long-term parking** by two large vans in the Highways lay-by (A272 entering Chailey and close to telephone-box). Ian Johnson confirmed that, provided the vehicles were properly licensed, this was not objectionable; if concerned about parking, the matter should be referred to the Lewes DC Parking Team. **For information**
- **Bus information:** Separately, and for the Record, Cllr Sheppard had advised that the electronic bus-stops in Uckfield were provided rarely by County and could cost as much as £12K each. However, he also confirmed that real-time bus information would soon be made widely available for residents in villages such as Chailey through websites and smartphones. The real time information output was being tested with Compass Travel, who provide the Chailey bus service, and availability would be publicised, once confident the information provision is working well for users of websites and smartphones. **For information**

7 Date and time of next meeting **Monday May 15th at 0930 in Chailey Reading Room.**

[Personal record by Mark Evans, not an official minute]