

Agenda Item No: 9.10 **Report No:** 89/15
Report Title: Ward Issues Raised by Councillors at Council
Report To: Cabinet **Date:** 6 July 2015
Cabinet Members: Councillors Franklin and Maskell
Ward(s) Affected: Ouse Valley and Ringmer, Lewes Priory, Seaford West, Lewes Bridge, Newhaven Valley
Report By: Assistant Director of Corporate Services
 Catherine Knight
Contact Officer(s)-
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Purpose of Report:

To respond to ward issues raised by councillors at Meetings of the Council.

Officers Recommendation(s):

To note and agree the officer action detailed in the Report.

Reasons for Recommendations

To ensure that appropriate follow up action is taken.

Information

- The following Ward issue was raised at the Council meeting on 23 April 2015:

<u>Councillor/Ward</u>	<u>Ward Issue Concerning</u>	
Councillor Gander – Ouse Valley and Ringmer Ward	Councillor Gander had received complaints from some of his constituents relating to the amount of litter and rubbish etc. which could be seen on the verges of the A26 road between Beddingham and Newhaven and on parts of the A27 which were located in his Ward. He suggested that most of that litter and rubbish etc. had fallen from the backs of lorries, the drivers of which had not correctly fitted suitable netting to their vehicles which was designed to prevent such material from escaping whilst it was in transit.	

<u>Councillor/Ward</u>	<u>Ward Issue Concerning</u>	
	<p><u>Suggested action to be taken by the Council:</u> That the Council write to East Sussex County Council requesting it to encourage lorry drivers to correctly fit suitable netting to the backs of their vehicles in order to prevent litter and rubbish etc. from escaping whilst those vehicles were in transit and further request that it undertake a 'litter-pick' of the verges alongside the A26 road between Beddingham and Newhaven and along parts of the A27 which were located in Ouse Valley and Ringmer Ward.</p>	DSD
<p><u>Comment by Chief Officer (Director of Service Delivery):</u> Warning letters have been sent in the last two years to all identified waste carriage businesses within the District advising them of their obligation to the waste they transport along the highways of the A26 and A27. The waste carriage businesses were informed that all skips being transported are required to have netting fitted over skips being transported carrying waste and that their drivers should be trained in the fitting of the netting. A repeat letter will be sent to all waste carriers in and around the District. Enforcement will be carried out in relation to any littering offence identified, initially by fixed penalty notice then prosecution. To address this issue of the existing litter, Lewes District Council, who are responsible for the maintenance of the verges have previously carried out a litter pick of the A26 but will action again. Litter picking on the A27 is carried out on a fortnightly schedule.</p>		

The following Ward issues were raised at the Annual Meeting of the Council on 20 May 2015:

<u>Councillor/Ward</u>	<u>Ward Issue Concerning</u>	
Councillor Rowell – Lewes Priory Ward	<p>An important part of the Council's provision for emergency housing was located in Lewes Priory Ward. Concerns had recently been raised with Councillor Rowell relating to the future of Saxonbury on Juggs Road which currently provided much needed emergency housing.</p> <p><u>Suggested action to be taken by the Council:</u> That Councillors and residents be assured that the emergency provision at Saxonbury was not under threat or, if there were plans to change that which was provided at Saxonbury, that Councillors and residents be notified as to what provision was planned instead in Lewes town in order to make sure that no emergency housing was lost.</p>	DSD
<p><u>Comment by Chief Officer (Director of Service Delivery):</u> Saxonbury has been used for emergency housing for people from all over the district. It is one of a number of options open to the Council to provide temporary accommodation for households faced with homelessness. The accommodation is outdated and the layout of the property is not ideal, though we recognise that it</p>		

<u>Councillor/Ward</u>	<u>Ward Issue Concerning</u>	
	<p>has provided much-needed relief for people needing emergency placements. LDC is committed to finding suitable accommodation for people in need and will be making more use of the private sector accommodation available, as well as our own stock, all of which are of a higher standard. We only use B&B accommodation as a last resort and to move people into suitable accommodation at the earliest opportunity.</p> <p>It is too early to say what the plans might be for Saxonbury, but Councillors and residents will have the opportunity to be involved once we reach that part of the consultation process.</p>	
Councillor Wallraven – Seaford West Ward	<p>There was an increasing problem with some six or seven professional dog walking companies currently using The Rookery, off Bishopstone Road during the day. Consequently, the residents of Bishopstone Village felt that the area was becoming the local 'dog's toilet facility'.</p> <p><u>Suggested action to be taken by the Council:</u> That a dual purpose waste bin (ie rubbish/dog waste) be provided at The Rookery.</p>	DSD
<u>Comment by Chief Officer (Director of Service Delivery):</u> An order has been placed for the existing bin to be replaced with a dual purpose bin which, it is anticipated, will be installed within the next six to eight weeks.		
Councillor Cooper – Lewes Bridge Ward	<p>Litter was becoming an increasing problem in Lewes shopping precinct and on Cliffe High Street which was not pleasant for visitors but also attracted seagulls which sometimes picked-up and choked on the plastic waste. Part of the problem had resulted from there being an insufficient provision of litter bins in the area.</p> <p><u>Suggested action to be taken by the Council:</u> That additional litter bins be provided in Lewes shopping precinct and on Cliffe High Street, and that additional litter collections be undertaken especially on days when special events were being staged in those areas</p>	DSD
<u>Comment by Chief Officer (Director of Service Delivery):</u> Litter patrols along the shopping precinct and on Cliffe High Street have been increased during the summer period and particularly when special events take place. The Council is arranging for an additional litter bin to be provided.		
<u>Councillor/Ward</u>	<u>Ward Issue Concerning</u>	
Councillor Gander – Ouse Valley and Ringmer Ward	<p>There was a problem with heavy buses travelling at a relatively high speed when turning into Broyle Close from Broyle Lane, Ringmer, which had resulted in vibrations being experienced to the older properties on the left-hand</p>	

<u>Councillor/Ward</u>	<u>Ward Issue Concerning</u>	
	<p>side of Broyle Lane.</p> <p><u>Suggested action to be taken by the Council:</u> That the Council write to the appropriate bus company in order to request it to ensure that its drivers further reduced the speed of their buses before they turned into Broyle Close from Broyle Lane, Ringmer.</p>	DSD
	<p><u>Comment by Chief Officer (Director of Service Delivery)</u> This matter was referred to East Sussex County Council as it is the local highways authority. Consequently, East Sussex County Council has contacted the Operations Director of the operator of the buses and has passed on the above concerns and the request that their bus drivers reduce their speed.</p> <p>The Operations Director has subsequently confirmed that drivers have been informed of the concern raised and has offered to investigate further any specific concerns that residents may have.</p> <p>The bus operator records the speed its buses travel and can retrieve that information for any part of a journey at any given time, a recent example showed buses travelling into Broyle Close at speeds of between 14 and 15 kph (approximately 10 miles per hour).</p> <p>If residents can record the date and time of any buses seen to be travelling at high speeds, the bus operator will be able to identify the bus in question and investigate.</p>	
<p>Councillor Carr – Newhaven Valley Ward</p>	<p>Waste materials and rubbish were being deposited in the alleyways that were located behind properties particularly in Elphick Road; Lawes Avenue; and Lewes Road in Newhaven, some of which were the Council's properties, details of which had been reported to the Council. The Council had written to residents of the affected area, some of whom were elderly and/or disabled, advising them that, prior to consideration of any enforcement action, they were requested to co-operate and help remove the waste and rubbish which had become a waste and environmental issue and to keep the area clear of such items. Councillor Carr had assisted with work to clear the area but, as those alleyways had not been adopted by the Council or East Sussex County Council, they were not cleared regularly by council staff.</p> <p>Additionally, Councillor Carr had contacted the Council's department that had been responsible for sending the letter to the residents which had indicated that the letter should also have indicated that the residents would be clearing the waste materials and rubbish at their own risk, an issue in respect of which Councillor Carr felt was not acceptable</p>	

<u>Councillor/Ward</u>	<u>Ward Issue Concerning</u>	
	<p><u>Suggested action to be taken by the Council:</u> Councillor Carr felt that problems associated with the waste materials and rubbish, including that of vermin, were being 'stored-up' for the future. She therefore requested that the Council undertake clearance of the waste materials and rubbish that had been deposited in the alleyways (in respect of which Councillor Carr would encourage residents to assist) and give consideration to adopting those alleyways</p>	DSD
<p><u>Comment by Chief Officer (Director of Service Delivery):</u> The Council has rewritten to residents and is currently co-ordinating a clear up of the alleyways concerned. Once completed 'No Fly tipping' signs will be erected. Working with residents and local elected members the effectiveness of the signs will be monitored and if required enforcement action will follow.</p> <p>The alleyways are not in Council ownership and, adoption of roads as highways is undertaken by the Country Council. The request will be forwarded to the relevant section of East Sussex County Council.</p>		

Financial Appraisal

2 None arising from this Report.

Legal Implications

3 None arising from this Report.

Risk Management Implications

4 I have not completed the Risk Management Checklist as there is no need to undertake a risk assessment.

Equality Screening

5 I have not completed the Equality Analysis checklist as this Report is free from the requirement to do so.

Background Papers

6 None

Appendices

7 None