

Agenda Item No: 9.11 **Report No:** 126/16
Report Title: Ward Issues Raised by Councillors at Council
Report To: Cabinet **Date:** 28 September 2016
Cabinet Members: Councillors Giles; Jones; Nicholson; and Smith
Ward(s) Affected: Kingston; Lewes Priory; Newhaven Valley; Seaford Central; Seaford East; and Seaford South
Report By: Catherine Knight, Assistant Director of Legal and Democratic Services
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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

- 1 The following Ward issues were raised at the Council meeting on 21 July 2016:

<u>Councillor/Ward</u>	<u>Ward Issue Concerning</u>	
Councillor Catlin – Lewes Priory Ward	Constituents had complained that on arrival at Lewes Cemetery they had been unable to park their vehicles because of the large number of cars that were already parked there whilst, at the same time, there was no-one at the cemetery. Councillor Catlin understood from East Sussex County Council that the Council had asked for there to be a soft touch approach to parking at the Cemetery. However, it appeared to Councillor Catlin that the lax enforcement of parking restrictions was being abused.	

<u>Councillor/Ward</u>	<u>Ward Issue Concerning</u>	
	<p><u>Suggested action to be taken by the Council:</u> That a purge be undertaken by having a check, every four hours for two weeks, on unauthorised vehicles that were parked at the Cemetery and that the matter must be reviewed.</p> <p><i>(NB In response to the above Ward issue, the Leader of the Council reported that the Council would discuss the matter with East Sussex County Council which was responsible for enforcing the car parking regime at the Cemetery with the aim of seeking a solution to such a sensitive issue without upsetting grieving mourners who had legitimately parked their vehicles in the Cemetery car park).</i></p>	DCE
<p><u>Comment by Chief Officer (Deputy Chief Executive):</u> The Council will continue to monitor the effectiveness of measures taken by ESCC.</p>		

<p>Councillor lent – Kingston Ward</p>	<p>During 2015 and 2016 Highways England had been repairing the footway bridge between the two parts of Falmer village above the A27 trunk road. Such repairs had included putting in a pedestrian slope and steps to the bus stop on the A27.</p> <p>The previous layby for the bus stop was quite small and Councillor lent and others had thought that when the barriers and screens were removed there would be a safer pull in and pull out for the buses. Sadly, that had not been the case and the existing bus stop had simply been replaced roughly on its existing dimensions.</p> <p>It appeared that the bus company had objected to using the new bus layby which simply replicated the very tight ‘pull in’ of the old bus layby that was built over forty years ago in the 1970s. Therefore the new bus stop had been closed leaving villagers with a long walking detour to catch the bus.</p> <p><u>Suggested action to be taken by the Council:</u> That the Chair or Leader of the Council write to Highways England at their south-eastern headquarters in Guildford asking it to make the rectification works a very high priority so that the bus</p>	C Hanlon
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	stop could be brought back into use as soon as possible.	
<u>Comment by the Officer:</u> The Leader of the Council has sent a letter to Highways England at its office in Guildford.		

Councillor Ient – Kingston Ward	<p>There was a window of opportunity this year to get funding for both capital and revenue projects in respect of walking and cycling.</p> <p>In the Council's area, the C7 Road between Lewes and Newhaven was in urgent need of both revenue and capital funding to improve access and safety for walking and cycling to the villages and to the main urban centres of Lewes and Newhaven.</p> <p><u>Suggested action to be taken by the Council:</u> That the Council immediately contact East Sussex County Council to request it to submit a capital and revenue funding proposal for the C7 Road as applications for capital projects to support walking and cycling needed to be submitted by 28 July 2016.</p> <p><i>(NB Subsequent to the meeting, a suitable request was sent to Officers at East Sussex County Council on the morning of Friday, 22 July 2016).</i></p>	DCE
<u>Comment by Chief Officer (Deputy Chief Executive):</u> As mentioned above, subsequent to the meeting, a suitable request was sent to Officers at East Sussex County Council on the morning of Friday, 22 July 2016.		

Councillor Adeniji – Seaford South Ward	<p>The Council had erected a sign on Seaford seafront, by the Martello Tower, which indicated that overnight parking in the vicinity was not permitted. However, during the summer months, people arrived in their mobile homes and stayed overnight in the area. Sometimes visitors camped in the area for up to a week at a time and, in doing so, often left waste materials on the side of the road which Seaford Town Council needed to clear away.</p> <p>Councillor Adeniji had contacted the Council and East Sussex County Council and had been told that</p>	
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	<p>it was difficult to enforce the conditions of the sign as it was only possible to do so by sending an enforcement Officer to the area during unsocial hours.</p> <p><u>Suggested action to be taken by the Council:</u> That the Council either arrange for the sign to be removed as the conditions thereon were not being enforced; or that it contact East Sussex County Council, which was responsible for such enforcement, in order to request that the conditions be enforced in order to prevent overnight parking in the vicinity.</p>	DCE
<p><u>Comment by Chief Officer (Deputy Chief Executive):</u> The 'no sleeping in a vehicle overnight' sign is mainly used as a deterrent. The sign appears in all car parks. The Esplanade car park belongs to Seaford Town Council. Enforcement takes place via LDC's management contract with ESCC. The cost of enforcement is then recharged to STC.</p> <p>Seaford Town Council has two options:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Instruct LDC not to enforce the no sleeping overnight rule at The Esplanade (and also High & Over, and South Hill Barn car parks which are under a similar management arrangement). 2. Agree to pay for additional out of hours patrols so that enforcement can take place. 		
<p>Councillor Saunders – Newhaven Valley Ward</p>	<p>Newhaven residents were concerned that the Council had not confirmed that Meeching Down had been devolved to Newhaven Town Council.</p> <p><u>Suggested action to be taken by the Council:</u> That the Council expedite the transfer of Meeching Down in its entirety to Newhaven Town Council so as to ensure that the well-loved open space was able to be enjoyed in perpetuity by Newhaven residents, with the added assurances of the robust covenants that had been suggested by the former Officers who had dealt with the original proposals.</p>	DCE
<p><u>Comment by Chief Officer (Deputy Chief Executive):</u> The Council has previously set out a policy in respect of devolution to Towns and Parishes and will continue to follow that. Meeching Down is part of the special expense for Newhaven and is therefore a potential for future devolution subject to approval by Cabinet via the Devolution Committee.</p>		

<p>Councillor Saunders – Newhaven Valley Ward</p>	<p>The announcement which related to the withdrawal of the Crown Post Office in Newhaven.</p> <p><u>Suggested action to be taken by the Council:</u> That the Council write to the Post Office in support of Newhaven Town Council's letter which expressed that Town Council's frustration in respect of the withdrawal of the Crown Post Office.</p>	<p>DRP</p>
<p><u>Comment by Chief Officer (Director of Regeneration and Planning):</u> A letter has been sent as suggested.</p>		

<p>Councillor Carr – Newhaven Valley Ward</p>	<p>Councillor Carr welcomed the news that the Council had recently taken over the lease of Newhaven Square, Newhaven, and had plans for the redevelopment of the area. However, both Councillor Carr and Councillor Saunders, who represented Newhaven Valley Ward, were not being kept informed about the plans for the development of the area. The lack of information from the Council had led to some rumours circulating in Newhaven regarding what was happening and which companies were proposing to have a presence in Newhaven.</p> <p><u>Suggested action to be taken by the Council:</u> That monthly update meetings be held between the relevant Council Officers and Councillor Carr in order that she, and Councillor Saunders, could be kept informed about issues that related to Newhaven Square and other issues that affected Newhaven such as devolution and the proposed development of the Robinson Road site and other development sites that were located in Newhaven.</p>	<p>DRP</p>
<p><u>Comment by Chief Officer (Director of Regeneration and Planning):</u> Bee Lewis has arranged to meet Councillor Carr regarding Newhaven Square.</p>		

<p>Councillor Carr – Newhaven Valley Ward</p>	<p>There was a Council sign located at the Robinson Road entrance to Riverside Park, Newhaven, which indicated that no cycling was permitted in the Park.</p> <p><u>Suggested action to be taken by the Council:</u> That the Council arrange for its sign to be removed in order to encourage cycling within Riverside Park.</p>	<p>DRP</p>
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<p><u>Comment by Chief Officer (Director of Regeneration and Planning):</u> The sign has been modified so as to obliterate the text which indicated that no cycling was permitted in the Park.</p>		

<p>Councillor Gauntlett – Seaford Central Ward</p>	<p>Brooklyn Road in Seaford was flooded, yet again, in the flash flooding on 17 June 2016.</p> <p>The resulting overflow from the drainage system of water and sewage not only polluted the road and gardens but came up through the toilets and sinks. It also displaced rats which were seen at the same time.</p> <p>Southern Water had an emergency pump which was designed to switch on automatically when the drains were full but it had failed yet again.</p> <p><u>Suggested action to be taken by the Council:</u> That the Council seek written assurance from Southern Water that the pump would be repaired or replaced and when that would happen. As residents suspected that the drainage pipes contained many years build- up of silt, that the Council seek further assurance that the pipes were either fit for purpose or would be cleaned. A substantial development was being built on the Old House Depository site at the Brooklyn Road /Claremont Road junction and the constructors had been observed hosing debris into the drainage system which had the potential to make the problem worse.</p> <p>Furthermore, that the Council request assurances that the building developments on the Newlands School site in Seaford East Ward and the Caffyns site in Seaford Central Ward had been factored into the overall capacity of the Seaford water/waste disposal system and that it would function without flooding.</p> <p>The above was necessary in order to prevent the repeated misery that the residents of Brooklyn Road continued to experience.</p>	<p>DSD</p>
<p><u>Comment by Chief Officer (Director of Service Delivery):</u> The Council's Head of Planning & Revenues has contacted Southern Water to seek assurance that the water infrastructure in the Brooklyn Road Seaford area is fit for purpose and is maintained to a satisfactory standard. In addition, a</p>		

request has been made to provide assurance that the Newlands School site and Caffyns site in Seaford have been taken into account as part of the overall capacity of the water supply and foul water system.	
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Councillor Peterson – Seaford East Ward	<p>That, with regard to the water and sewage flooding issues as referred to in Councillor Gauntlett’s Ward Issue above, it appeared that Southern Water might be using out of date maps of the sewage pipe system that existed in Seaford which, if that was the case, might be causing problems with flooding in that town.</p> <p><u>Suggested action to be taken by the Council:</u> That the Council put pressure on Southern Water to provide up to date maps of the sewage pipe system in Seaford in order that Seaford residents could see them and be assured that Southern Water was working in accordance with them.</p>	DSD
<p><u>Comment by Chief Officer (Director of Service Delivery):</u> The Council’s Head of Planning & Revenues has contacted Southern Water requesting that they provide up to date maps of the foul water drainage system.</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