

Agenda Item No:

Report No:

Report Title: Ward Issues Raised by Councillors at Council

Report To: Cabinet

Date: 29 September 2014

Cabinet Members: Councillors Jones and Maskell

Ward(s) Affected: Lewes Priory

**Report By: Assistant Director of Corporate Services
Catherine Knight**

Contact Officer(s)-

Name(s): Trevor Hayward
Post Title(s): Committee Officer
E-mail(s): trevor.hayward@lewes.gov.uk
Tel No(s): 01273 471600 ext. 7106229

Purpose of Report:

To respond to ward issues raised by councillors.

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 17 July 2014:

<u>Councillor/Ward</u>	<u>Ward Issue Concerning</u>
Councillor O'Keeffe – Lewes Priory Ward	The impact of banners which were displayed around Lewes relating to the Battle of Lewes had been reduced because of the failure to obtain permission for them to be displayed on some nominated listed buildings. Furthermore, the costs associated with obtaining such permission were considered to be relatively high as they were the same as those for a commercial advertising display.

There were opportunities to use the banners in future years to help enhance the visitor experience to the

town.

Suggested action to be taken by the Council:

That, in order to obtain the desired impact and concentration of the banners and to reduce the lengthy and costly planning process, some sort of prior approval be put in hand at an early stage in order that permission to display the banners on nominated listed buildings could be granted in advance of the proposal to display them in 2015 and in future years?.

Comment by Chief Officer (Director of Service Delivery):

The Council is developing a process to simplify the permissions to display banners whilst ensuring they do not become unsightly or have a detrimental impact on the appearance of the town. The necessary professionals from planning, conservation and design, and tourism will be involved and the Council will also be requesting that Lewes Town Council work with Lewes District Council on developing the necessary planning permission for general consent and protocols on what organisations can use the banners, for what purposes duration of usage and so on.

Councillor/Ward

Ward Issue Concerning

Councillor Dean
– Lewes Priory
Ward

Despite the County Highways Department being under financial pressure, there was a proliferation of speed signs, and other traffic signs, around Lewes. However, it was necessary to provide more clear signage to car parks

Suggested action to be taken by the Council:

That the Council work with East Sussex County Council in order to rationalize the provision of traffic related signs across Lewes including the provision of additional suitable signs to car parks.

Comment by Chief Officer: (Director of Service Delivery)

A response to a previous request was provided to Councillor Amanda Dean on the 21 February 2014 as follows:

That we ask that the County place effective, informative and decorative signs indicating the presence of all car parks be erected in clearly visible locations.

There are specific rules and guidelines concerning signage to make sure that they are easy to read, understand and contain the correct information and do not contribute to street clutter. The new panel style of sign allows for a certain amount of customisation. However, each location must ensure cohesion with other street furniture and this aspect is included in the review of the Public Realm approved at Cabinet in February 2014.

Officers will expedite the work on street signage and consider interim solutions over the summer period.

Completed. The county was asked and new signs in car parks erected: 1st July 2013

Public Realm review: Ongoing

The issues raised by Councillor Dean at the Council meeting on 17 July 2014 will be raised with County at the earliest opportunity for them to resolve.

<u>Councillor/Ward</u>	<u>Ward Issue Concerning</u>
Councillor Eiloart – Lewes Priory Ward	<p>A resident of Lewes Priory ward had recently been locked inside Southover Grange Gardens when they were locked at night which, Councillor Eiloart believed, had also happened to other visitors in the past. However, the resident was aware of some suitable contact telephone numbers and, therefore, they had been able to summon help.</p> <p><u>Suggested action to be taken by the Council:</u> That signs be displayed at the gates of Southover Grange Gardens which provided details of emergency contact telephone numbers for use by those who became locked in the Gardens.</p> <p>That consideration be given to the provision of 'exit only' barriers at the Gardens and whether such provision would be of benefit at other Council premises.</p>

Comment by Chief Officer: (Director of Service Delivery)

Signage with emergency contact details will be displayed as requested. In addition, when the gardens are being locked, signs will be used warning people and an extra sweep of the gardens before the final gate is locked. With these arrangements in place it is expected that 'exit only' barriers would not be needed but the situation will be monitored.

Financial Appraisal

2 None arising from this Report.

Legal Implications

3 None arising from this Report.

Sustainability Implications

4 I have not completed the Sustainability Implications Questionnaire as this Report is exempt from the requirement because it is an administration Report.

Risk Management Implications

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

Equality Screening

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

Background Papers

7 None

Appendices

8 None