

Agenda Item No: 9.7 **Report No:** 57/16
Report Title: Ward Issues Raised by Councillors at Council
Report To: Cabinet **Date:** 21 March 2016
Cabinet Members: Councillors Franklin, Maskell and Nicholson
Ward(s) Affected: Ouse Valley and Ringmer; Newick; and Newhaven Denton and Meeching
Report By: Catherine Knight, Assistant Director of Corporate Services
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

- 1 The following Ward issues were raised at the Council meeting on 25 February 2016:

<u>Councillor/Ward</u>	<u>Ward Issue Concerning</u>	
Councillor Turner – Ouse Valley and Ringmer Ward	<p>Approximately two years ago the Council had undertaken to devolve its land at The Forges, Ringmer, to Ringmer Parish Council, an issue which had not yet been completed.</p> <p><u>Suggested action to be taken by the Council:</u> That the Council aim to complete the above devolution process as soon as possible.</p>	DCS

<u>Comment by Chief Officer (Director of Corporate Services):</u> The transfer is subject to finalising the legal agreement, it is scheduled to be completed imminently		
Councillor Turner – Ouse Valley and Ringmer Ward	There were serious drainage problems in Firle village. <u>Suggested action to be taken by the Council:</u> That the Council write to the Highways Department at East Sussex County Council to request that the ditches and drains in Firle village be cleaned out.	S Lomas
<u>Comment by appropriate Officer:</u> Email sent to CETDETSupport@eastsussex.gov.uk and confirmation of receipt has been received from Rupert Clubb.		
Councillor Turner – Ouse Valley and Ringmer Ward	A lot of walkers visited Firle in which there were no footpaths. <u>Suggested action to be taken by the Council:</u> That the Council write to the South Downs National Park Authority to request that it consider funding, or part-funding, the provision of a footpath in Firle in order that walkers could be kept safer.	S Lomas
<u>Comment by appropriate Officer:</u> Email sent to Allison Thorpe at the Sussex Downs National Park Authority and a reply received from Jeremy Burgess stating the following: “I am writing further to your enquiry in regard to Footpaths in Firle. The village is well situated with a network of Rights of Way that include routes across Firle Park and links along the base of and up onto the Downs and to the South Downs Way. Within the Village itself there are some narrow roads but many of these roads have pavements or in some cases safe routes have been created (to the school for example). We have regular liaison with the Firle Estate and I am unaware of any problem with walkers in the village. If this is a specific issue regarding the provision of a pavement then this would be a matter for the Highway Authority (East Sussex County Council). If this matter relates to a specific need for a new permissive footpath to link current rights of way then I would be happy to receive more details and I can discuss this with the estate.” This reply was sent to Councillor Turner for his consideration.		
Councillor Sheppard – Newick Ward	In Newick there was a small development of 28 sheltered housing units, one of which was currently	

	<p>frequently used as a Community Centre by residents of the units and by others. There was no other suitable alternative facility in Newick in light of its proximity to the other community centre which was located some distance away. However, the Council wished to revert the Centre that was located within the sheltered housing units, back to being a dwelling.</p> <p><u>Suggested action to be taken by the Council:</u> That the Council reverse its decision to revert the Community Centre that was located within the sheltered housing units, back to being a dwelling.</p>	DSD
<p><u>Comment by Chief Officer (Director of Service Delivery):</u> The issue has arisen due to the need to reduce budgets by £160,000 following budget reductions from ESCC to the Supporting People budget affecting all sheltered accommodation within the District. The proposed closure of communal rooms / properties had been factored into this saving along with other measures to ensure that the budget balances.</p> <p>Extensive consultation was undertaken with tenants on ways of continuing to provide the service with a loss of the funding. Currently the charge is £10 per unit per week which was paid by East Sussex County Council and as this is being removed, Lewes District Council has been trying to reduce this charge as far as possible to £3.36 per unit per week. This has been achieved by restructuring the service to reduce costs and increase income by renting those flats used as community spaces to residents on the council housing waiting list. It is recognised that in rural areas community facilities maybe more important and therefore the costs of maintaining these for the 28 unit in Newick will be calculated and tenants can chose to increase the proposed charge of £3.36 per unit per week, if they so wish, to cover that cost and retain the centre, or not. In addition funds from other organisations will be sought as a way of subsidising the community facility for Newick residents.</p>		
Councillor Barnes – Newhaven Denton and Meeching Ward	<p>The road junction which existed at Cantercrow Hill; St Leonards Close; and St Leonards Road, Denton, Newhaven, had no junction road markings which was confusing for road users and residents and which was concerning.</p> <p><u>Suggested action to be taken by the Council:</u> That the Council write to the Highways Department at East Sussex County Council requesting that it undertake a traffic survey at that junction in order that it could understand the problems and concerns of road users and residents.</p>	S Lomas

<p><u>Comment by appropriate Officer:</u> Email sent to CETDETSupport@eastsussex.gov.uk and confirmation of receipt has been received from Rupert Clubb.</p>	
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<p>Councillor Gander – Ouse Valley and Ringmer Ward</p>	<p>The ditches that were located outside Yeomans, Ringmer, had recently almost overflowed which, if that occurred, would flood Yeomans. For the last four years, East Sussex County Council had been requested to clear out those ditches but such work had not yet been undertaken</p> <p><u>Suggested action to be taken by the Council:</u> That the Council write to East Sussex County Council in order to ascertain why the clearance work had not been undertaken.</p>	<p>S Lomas</p>
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<p><u>Comment by appropriate Officer:</u> Email sent to CETDETSupport@eastsussex.gov.uk and confirmation of receipt has been received from Rupert Clubb.</p>	
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<p>Councillor Gander – Ouse Valley and Ringmer Ward</p>	<p>There was flooding at one of the main drains that was located outside the shopping precinct in Ringmer which, when it rained, resulted in flooding of the road and part of the precinct.</p> <p><u>Suggested action to be taken by the Council:</u> That the Council write to the Highways Department at East Sussex County Council requesting that the above drain be cleaned out as a matter of urgency in order to prevent the flooding from recurring.</p>	<p>S Lomas</p>
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<p><u>Comment by appropriate Officer:</u> Email sent to CETDETSupport@eastsussex.gov.uk and confirmation of receipt has been received from Rupert Clubb.</p>	
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<p>Councillor Gander – Ouse Valley and Ringmer Ward</p>	<p>There was a considerable amount of rubbish along the A26 and A27 roads that had fallen from the backs of lorries which had been driven along those roads.</p> <p><u>Suggested action to be taken by the Council:</u> That the Council ascertain which authority was responsible for clearing the rubbish and write to them in order to request that clearance work be undertaken.</p> <p>That the Council write to the appropriate authorities,</p>	<p>DSD</p>
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	companies and organisations in order to request them to encourage lorry drivers to fasten suitable covers/nets over their loads in order to prevent materials from escaping from their vehicles whilst they were being driven along the A26 and A27 roads.	DSD
<p><u>Comment by Chief Officer (Director of Service Delivery):</u> Lewes District Council is responsible for street cleansing across sections of the A27, A26, C7, A259 and other high speed roads. The council IS currently clearing rubbish along these main roads where it is safe to do so however there are some sections where it is too dangerous and we cannot risk an accident and serious injury. With this in mind we have suspended litter picking in these areas as have many other councils with similar sorts of issues. We are working with East Sussex County Council and Highways England to identify when future road works are planned so we can, where possible, carry out a deep clean litter removal at the same time. We believe this is a practical, safe and cost effective solution to resolve the issue.</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