

Westfield Parish Clerks Report – For period covering 31st April to 27th May

East Sussex Highways

- **00219229** 17th March – reported overgrown hedges along the main road at the back of Stablefield, making it very dangerous for pedestrians who are crossing the busy road, from the footpath from Cottage Lane to cross the road towards the GP's surgery.
25th May – The local Highways Steward has inspected and raised works for this vegetation to be cut back. These works will be carried out within 28 days.
- **00219233** 17th March – reported hedge around the 40 speed limit sign has not been cut properly. By the junction of Mill Lane and the A28.
23rd April – received update: Highways Steward has inspected and found vegetation in need of cutting back. A land search is currently being carried out to determine the responsible owner of this vegetation. Once this information has come back, a hedge cutting letter will be sent out to the owner asking them to cut back their vegetation. The local Highways Steward will be out to reinspect two weeks after the letter has been sent to make sure that it has been cut back sufficiently. If this has not been carried out and/or the owner has not contacted us, this too will be referred to the Enforcement Team.
- Drain on A21 near GP surgery – 22nd May had a look at drain which James Woodhead had advised was covered with tarmac. Couldn't see any tarmac covering the drain, and drain looks clear.

Drop kerb request near Bowls Club

- 10th May – received the following reply: 'I am making some internal enquiries into the request and will update you when I have received a response'
N.B. We now have a new Customer Liaison Officer, which I believe has caused the delay with this enquiry.
- 21st May – received the following reply: "In recognition of the importance of dropped kerbs in supporting local accessibility, East Sussex County Council (ESCC) is proposing to include a policy focussed on the delivery of dropped kerbs, within their emerging Countywide Cycling & Walking Strategy. The strategy will be available for public consultation during Autumn 2018. The subject of dropped kerbs was also considered by the T & E Scrutiny Committee in November 2017 and agreed that ideally there should be an identified budget for dropped kerb provision and a prioritisation process for requests. The Committee understood that the work on the Walking & Cycling Strategy aimed to address these issues and resolved to receive a further report later this year to see how the Cycling and Walking Strategy work has addressed these issues.
As a consequence, we'll keep a record of this request for further consideration once the policy on dropped kerbs within the emerging Countywide Cycling and Walking Strategy has been adopted."

Fingerpost – Bluemans Lane/Parsonage Lane

- 22nd May – chased Phill Signs again for suitable date and time for Highways to bring back the fingerpost.

WW1 display – November 2018

- 8th May – sent an e-mail to Ruth Carter to advise that Council were very supportive of a film showing on the evening of the 3rd November, and had approved to pay the license fee for showing the film.
- 17th May – Patrick Edwards advised that Rother Brewery will be donating a keg of their commemorative beer for the film night on the 3rd November. Patrick to organise a license for the event. Advised Ruth accordingly. Suggested sell tickets for say £5 to include a free drink, with all proceeds going to RBL?
- 17th May – Ruth confirmed display can now be set up on the afternoon of 2nd November, and the display will be moved into the Church on the 4th November for the following week, to allow more people to see the display.
- 17th May – put poster on FB page asking people to contribute to the display with information about their relatives and e-mailed Roger Bowe to ask him to publish on website.

Moat Lane – vehicle movements

- 14th May – spoke to a resident of Moat Lane who expressed concerns about lorries using the lane 24 hours a day. They also advised that a cat had been run over last week by a vehicle they believed was going too fast. I advised the resident about comments and objections made about two applications on Hoads Farm at the Planning Meeting on the 2nd May and encouraged them to make their own objections, should they wish. I also advised them to contact Cllr Carl Maynard and the Enforcement Team at RDC to express their concerns.

Nest swing – Recreation Ground

- 27th April – took and sent photos of parts needed to Playdale Ltd to ensure correct parts are ordered.

Fencing – Recreation Ground

- 11th May – reported to Council that someone had cut the cable ties, used as temporary on chain link fence. Left voicemail and e-mailed 1066 Fencing to ask them to repair.
- 11th May – Hamish Monro repaired fence.

Cottage Lane Footpath

- 17th May – e-mailed Project Manager at East Sussex Highways for an update.

Route 2 Bus Service

- 21st May – sent e-mail to Northiam and Brede Clerks to ask if residents had expressed concerns about the cut in bus service. Received the following reply from Northiam Clerk: “Nothing has come to my notice. You may not be aware but we, Beckley & Peasmarsh subsidised an early morning bus to Rye for several months but the usage was so low we couldn’t justify the cost to others, so we had to withdraw.”
- 21st May – received an e-mail from StageCoach: “Thank you for your email today about route 2 serving Westfield. We recognise that the reduction in the service through Westfield will be very disappointing for some residents. This route is commercially operated without any public subsidy so it’s important that it at least covers its costs.

There is a statutory process we follow when amending a bus route. We consult with East Sussex County Council's public transport team and notify the regional Traffic Commissioner. We work closely with the County Council.

Until 2015 the bus route linking Westfield with Hastings was financially supported by East Sussex County Council. While their spending budget has been reduced, they had to make significant cost savings. The proposal then was to reduce the frequency to every 2 hours. At the time we decided to take on this route at our own commercial risk and maintain an hourly frequency.”

- 22nd May – asked for further information about passenger numbers and the cost of subsidising buses. Received a reply, but because the information is commercially sensitive it is not for public information. Information will be provided to Cllrs privately.

Annual Report

- 8th May – sent to Dis Ltd for printing and circulation with WCA newsletter.
- 19th May – delivered to all residents

No Cold Calling Zone

- 28th April – set up on-line petition, published on website, FB page and WoW
<https://www.change.org/p/westfield-parish-council-implement-a-no-cold-calling-zone-in-westfield>
- 24th May – to date 18 people have signed the petition

Cloud4Charity – e-mail hosting and on-line back up

- 24th May – purchased domain www.westfieldcouncil.org and advised Cloud4Chairty accordingly

Internal Audit

- 3rd May – sent e-mail to Keith Robertson to appoint him as auditor, and booked audit for 15th May
- 3rd May – advised Sally Sharp that Council did not appoint her as internal auditor this year
- 15th May – Keith Roberston conducted internal audit.

Annual playground inspections

- 14th May – e-mailed RoSPA to book in inspections at reduced rate (June/July). Date TBC

Asset register/insurance

- 17th May – published updated asset register on website and sent to Came & Company insurance to update policy.

Parish Field – play area

- 17th May – received a report from Paul Masters that he had found some twigs and bottles smouldering on the play area surface. He has cleared it away, but a small indent has been left.

- 24th May – reported incident to police on-line, as well as other minor acts of vandalism to play equipment Ref: WEB-6U3-JFA-BZM
Received the following from Sussex Police: Based on the information provided so far, this report will now be closed as we have identified no lines of enquiry. Please let us know if you have any lines of enquiry to investigate this. For example, witnesses/ CCTV. However, as you have stated there is ongoing damage in this area, I will pass this on to the Prevention team to review.
- 25th May- received a report from the Football Club that someone had tried to light a fire in the middle of the football pitch, and that there had also been a recent attempted break in to the clubhouse. The break in has already been reported to the police, and advised that the person who had found the fire should do the same. Michael Horley visited the site later in the day, but could not find any evidence of a fire.

Dog waste bins

- 18th May – ordered Glasdon 60L Retriever bin with fixing post for Churchfield
- 22nd May – received an e-mail from resident about dog waste bin near GP surgery
- 24th May – sent e-mail Deborah Kenneally (Contract Manager, RDC)
“I am sorry to say that the dog bin past the surgery just before the footpath was not emptied last week. It's overflowing at the moment. We had a similar problem with a different bin the week before. Once again there doesn't seem to be any consistency to the way the bins are emptied. The contract we have is for all of the bins to be emptied on a weekly basis. Therefore, please would you advise why this is not happening?”

Grass cutting

- 18th May – sent e-mail to Contract Manager at iDverde to say grass in Recreation Ground has not been cut for nearly 3 weeks, and contract is for fortnightly cuts. Received confirmation that grass will be cut today.
- 24th May – sent e-mail to Cllrs asking if they would like additional urban cut between first cut on 4th May and 2nd cut on 20th June, provided by Highways. Only received reply from 3 Cllrs, 2 for a cut and one against. Therefore did not arrange for an additional cut before 20th June.

Cricket Pavilion

- 17th May – approved tender letter drafted by Ian Taylor. Ian dropped off 5 packs to be sent to builders to tender for works.
- 18th May – printed covering letters and posted packs.

CricketFest – Sunday 8th July

- 24th May – sent e-mail to Cllrs advising of the date and asking for volunteers to go in the “stocks”

Speeding – The Moor

- 24th May – answered an enquiry from a resident of The Moor expressing concerns about speeding. There is no pavement outside their property, so when vehicles speed it is very dangerous. ESCC have requested landowners to cut back vegetation obstructing 30mph signs, but residents would like an electronic speed sign in place. Advised that if could demonstrate enough local support for the area then they could request funding. Also advised to contact local Speedwatch group to ask if they could target that area the next time they are in Westfield.

Kate Darbyshire (Parish Clerk)

27th May 2018