

Notes from **Strengthening Local Relationships** meeting between  
Battle Town Council (BTC), and East Sussex County Council (ESCC)  
Wednesday, 6<sup>th</sup> October 2021 via Teams (hosted by ESCC)

**Present:**       **BTC:**   Cllr G Gavell (GF) – Chaired  
                                  Jane de Garston (JdG), Assistant Town Clerk - note taker  
                                  **ESCC:** Ian Johnson (IJ), Traffic & Safety Manager  
                                  James Kelly (JK), Highway Steward  
                                  Corrinne Black (CB), Customer Services Manager  
                                  Cllr K Field (KF), County & District Councillor  
                                  Ruby Brittle (RB), Stakeholder & Engagement Manager  
                                  Stephanie O’Hara, Service Support Officer

**Absent**       **BTC:**   Cllr M Howell

1. **Apologies** – None
2. **Approve minutes from the previous meeting** – Notes from 17<sup>th</sup> March 2021 were agreed although JK advised he did not receive a copy.  
**Action** – JdG to send a copy to JK  
GF requested an update on the following items from the previous meeting:
  - Bus stop photos – JdG responded the wrong pictures has been taken so these will be requested again.
  - Flooding at Netherfield – JK advised a drainage investigation had been requested and he would check on the progress of this
  - Grit bins map – CB advised this was issued to BTC. JdG agreed to check.
  - Pot holes & verge damage at Tollgates – JK advised the pot holes had been repaired and he had confirmed it is the developer’s responsibility to reinstate/repair any verges after the building work is completed.
  - Parking in bus turning bay in Marley Gardens – IJ advised a link had been send to KF. KF advised this will be reviewed as part of the CPE review.
  - Battle Hill Crossing – KF reported that stage 1 has been passed. Stage 2 is the design stage and she was pleased to report the negotiations between all parties involved are going well.
3. **Confirmation of date of lining review and process** – IJ reported this needs to be raised with the East Sussex parking team and this would also include the request for any new lining.  
**Action** – IJ agreed to send a link to JdG
4. **Renewal of lines at roundabouts at Powdermill Lane & Ninfield** – JK has visited the B2204 junction and confirmed the lines have been repainted.  
CB reported the Lower Lake and Ninfield roundabouts are both scheduled to be repainted in the next few weeks although traffic management is required for Ninfield so this may be delayed. The centre line repainting is also planned for Powdermill Lane.
5. **Request for road markings to highlight 30 mph speed limit at Glengorse & other key town entry points** – IJ reported there are 7 entry points to the Town but North Trade Road is already marked. He advised regulations prevent repeaters but he could raise a works order for the 6 locations currently unmarked. IJ noted this would need to be requested as one order for all points but it was noted a petition is in place for Caldbec Hill/Whatlington Road which is due to be considered in December. KF believes the petition is to request a width restriction which may require BTC match funding but she was confident the residents would welcome road markings in addition to any other works.  
**Action** – IJ to raise a works order but he advised road markings are weather dependent for installing.
6. **Request for provision of safe footway on Marley Lane for connectivity between footpaths 67b & 109g** – IJ reported he made enquiries with the Rights of Way team regarding this request but it did not score highly on the sift. This could possibly be considered but would require a feasibility study (£500 fee) and match funding from BTC.  
GF also asked about the possibility of joining Harrier Lane to the Great Wood footpath. JK advised the same situation would apply but a separate feasibility study would be required (with additional £500 fee).  
KF asked if the Section 106 funding could be used for this, IJ advised Stephen Marsden at Alliance Housing be contacted to ascertain if funds have already been allocated. **Action by BTC required.**

7. **Receive information on Highways policy in relation to perceived discrimination during footpath closures**  
– As the Town Council has received several complaints/concerns regarding the footpath closure for the Almonry works the policy on closures had been requested. CB advised all requests are considered on a case by case basis and if an alternative route, with safe crossing, was available then the closure would be authorised.  
KF reported the alternative route for the High Street is not sensible in terms of how pedestrians react to it and feels the situation has been mismanaged.  
**Action** – RB agreed to have signage reviewed this week and reinstated as soon as possible. It was noted more explicit information could be provided to make clear businesses remain open and the distance to the footpath closure.
8. **Any other business –**  
JdG reported a request from residents at Netherfield to adopt directional finger posts. RB advised there is a project to devolve responsibility for finger posts but this is not currently possible. IJ reported there is a small amount of funding to allow Parish/Town Councils to apply for works to finger posts, it is believed applications can be made under 'Community extras' for 2 posts per year.  
**Action** - CB will send the link to JdG
- KF reported the condition of Virgins Lane is very poor due to too many patched repairs and the quantity to traffic using the road.  
GF requested the footpath surface outside no's 6 & 8 also be reviewed as the surface is breaking up.  
JK advised he has passed concerns on regarding the poor mortaring of the reset kerbstones.  
**Action** – JK to review the road & footpath surfaces.  
KF & GF reported the proximity of the yellow lines to the junction of Virgins Lane and Whatlington Road make the junction very tight and large vehicles and coaches have been seen turning to the wrong side of the bollards.
- JdG made a general enquiry as to how to get the water companies to deal with issues that appear to be water related as a pot hole repair on Hastings Road is always leaking water. The pot hole has been repaired by Highways but water continues to seep through. JK advised this has been passed to Clancy Docwra for further investigation.
9. **Date of next meeting** – 16<sup>th</sup> March 2022 at 2.30 pm via Teams.