

EAST GRINSTEAD TOWN COUNCIL

Council Offices, East Court, College Lane, East Grinstead RH19 3LT
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23 May 2024

A meeting of the **ENVIRONMENTAL & SUSTAINABLE TRAVEL COMMITTEE** is to be held in the **COUNCIL CHAMBER** at **EAST COURT** on **THURSDAY 30TH MAY 2024** at **7pm**.

Questions relating to matters on the agenda may be submitted at the beginning of the meeting during public participation. The public are welcome to attend in person at East Court or via Zoom. The public need not give their name, but are required to advise whether they live in the East Grinstead Parish.

A request for the zoom link should be sent via email to towncouncil@eastgrinstead.gov.uk before 12 noon on the day of the meeting.

J W Holden,
Town Clerk.

Order of Meeting

7.00 pm

Public Participation: The public are welcome to attend the meeting in person or by virtual link to observe. Before the start of the substantive agenda there is an allotted period of up to 15 minutes where the public may ask a question of the Committee on matters that are contained on the substantive agenda for this meeting in line with Standing Order 1. The question should not be a statement nor in several parts and it would be appreciated to be kept short, to maximise the time for other questions; there is no right of reply and the Chairmans interpretation of the standing orders is final. Should there be no questions or the questions complete before the end of 15 minutes the Chairman will move along to the substantive agenda and public participation will end.

Agenda

To commence not later than 7.15pm

1. Apologies for absence/Substitutions
2. To receive Members Declarations of Interest.
3. To approve for accuracy the minutes from the meeting of 29th February 2024 and the 13th May 2024.
4. Chairman's Update

5. Bike Week
Update on promotion and events in relation to Bike Week (8-16 June)
6. Walking/Cycling leaflet
To consider the costs of walking/cycling leaflet for East Grinstead
7. Community Highways Schemes
To consider any schemes for submission to WSCC prior to the application deadline date of the 31 July 2024
8. Electric Vehicle Charging Scheme
To receive update/report in respect of potential scheme for East Court
9. Dates of next meetings
5 September, 28 November 2024 and 16 January 2025

The date of the next meeting is to be **Thursday, 25 July 2024** at 7.00pm.

East Grinstead Town Council

E & ST Report – 23 April 2024

Update on Projects

Cycle Parking at East Court – contact has been made with a further contractor and a meeting is being held on the 30 May to look at obtaining a further quote.

Bike Bus – update to be provided by Chair.

Bike Hire Scheme – Awaiting further update from Govia Thameslink Railway (GTR) on the station site and looking at potential sponsorship options for the scheme.

Environmental & Sustainability Policy/Environmental & Sustainable Travel Project Assessment Documents – Cllr. Pond and Cllr. Farren are still working on this and the documents will be reviewed at the next meeting.

Agenda Item 5 – Bike Week



For more information visit www.eastgrinstead.gov.uk

Try out our new cycling adventure routes

Join in with East Grinstead Bike Week!

Replace one car journey this week with a bike ride

8th-16th June 2024

we are cycling
The National Cycling UK

On Your Bike
London - Birmingham - East Grinstead
Your local bike shop

Further meetings have been held and the Community and Tourism Team have been working with the Deputy Town Clerk, Cllr. Ody and Cllr. J Belsey on the weeks events. The current proposals are for the week to comprise of the following:

Sat 8th June - Repair café to promote repairs for bikes for the forthcoming week.

Sun 9th - Kidical Mass will be held run by EG Cycle Club

10th June – Promotion via social media and banner to be put up in advance to promote the week.

11th June – Promotion via social media, for example bike routes and where cycle racks are in the town.

12th June – ‘Learn How To’ event at Queens Walk with On Yer Bike.

13th June – Potential of promoting cycling to the EGBA Summer gathering.

14th June – Bike Bus – still looking for volunteers at Halstead Primary School so this will not be possible if volunteers are not confirmed.

15th/16th June – EGCC to potentially run a couple of cycle rides around the town/Forest Way.

Agenda Item 6 – Walking/cycle leaflet

Following on from the previous meeting costs have been obtained for the walking/cycling leaflet and these are detailed below. There is obviously some work involved in producing the content and the printer will assist with the design, artwork and redrawing of the maps. The cost of producing 1000 printed copies is detailed below and we can also encourage the use of QR code so that the leaflet can be viewed on phones, etc which should assist with less people printing it off or needing a paper copy. A cost is available for recycled paper which is more expensive but would be in line with the E & ST Committee

26986 EGTC cycling and walking leaflet

- Production = Option A: Standard paper stock = £433+VAT Option B: 100% recycled paper stock = £508+VAT
- Bespoke design/artwork is £1755+VAT, including map redraw.
Any author amends will incur additional charges.

Please allow 5-7 working days for print turnaround.

Example leaflet below.

Calculate your distance and the calories you have burnt today!

1 mile = 1609 metres

What an average adult will burn for each mile they walk of the Cuckoo Trail.

1 mile = 1609 metres

What an average adult will burn for each mile they cycle along the Cuckoo Trail.

Runners and joggers can burn even more calories each mile – but this depends on your speed and weight.

Staying healthy and active
For more information about staying healthy and walking in Wealden, visit www.healthypeopleinwealden.co.uk

Physical Activity guidelines:

Adults should aim, if possible, to take part in at least 150 minutes of moderate intensity physical activity, in bouts of 10 minutes or more.

Children and young people should be encouraged to be physically active, if able, for at least 60 minutes every day.

How to get to the Cuckoo Trail

Trains: There are stations at Polegate and Hampden Park. For information on timetables visit www.rail.gov.uk

Bikes can be carried free of charge though there are some restrictions during peak hours.

Bus: For bus timetables and to plan your journey, go to: www.stagecoachbus.com

Car: There are free car parks at Heathfield, Horam, Hailsham and Hampden Park.

Access: Accessible spaces is provided at the Hailsham car park, where the trail is accessed via an easy graded ramp. A mounting block is provided.

Explore our nature
The Cuckoo Trail

A 14 mile trail for walkers, cyclists and horse riders, taking you through the beautiful East Sussex countryside

The history of the Cuckoo Trail

The Cuckoo Trail runs for 14 miles along the old railway line linking Heathfield, Horam, Hailsham, Polegate and Hampden Park. Opened in 1880, the railway was named the Cuckoo Line after the tradition that the first cuckoo of spring was always heard at the Heathfield Fair. Transporting of goods by road became more popular, and the line was shut in the 1950s.

Wildlife and nature along the Trail

On the trail you might see the following:

Cuckoo, a summer warbler, you can listen for the distinctive call from April to June. Lays its eggs in the nests of birds of other species (mainly Dunnock in this area).

The young cuckoo ejects the host's own eggs and demands of the host. It is grey with a long tail, usually solitary and flying with shallow wing beats.

Dunnock, like a sparrow but not a sparrow! Commonly seen hopping about on or near the ground along the trail. Gray-brown with darker stripes on its back and a narrow black, sings a rolling, warbling song from an exposed perch. It nests in dense cover such as thorn bushes and may unwittingly play host to a Cuckoo.

Lady's Smock also known as Cuckoo Flower. Commonly found in damp places along the trail. The pale yellow flowers with four petals appear in spring.

The Orange Tip butterfly starts life on a bright orange egg on the same plant. Only the male butterfly has an orange tip to the cream wings. The green caterpillars of the Orange Tip feed mainly on the Cuckoo Flower.

Larks and Ladies, also known as Cuckoo first, can be seen for most of the year in shaded areas. The leaves are arrow-shaped and glossy.

The flower starts white, turns black then produces a cluster of green berries, which go bright orange-red in the autumn and are poisonous.

Share with care

Whether you are travelling on foot, by bike or horse, please share the path respectfully with other users.

- **Keep left, pass on the right**
- **Keep to a safe speed**
- **Look and listen**
- **Clear up after your dog**
- **Do not leave litter**
- **Don't block the path**
- **Use lights at night**

Navigation: Can ride between Hailsham and the south of Heathfield and between Burmarsh Lane south of Hailsham and Polegate. The latter section involves going over a bridge, which crosses the A27 Polegate bypass, where a mounting block is provided at each end.

Cyclists: Don't surprise people – ring your bell or call out, remembering that some people are hard of hearing or visually impaired. Don't just assume that they can see or hear you.

Benches are located along the trail, many carved from fallen trees by local craftsmen. Please take care and make use located at intervals along the trail and you are welcome to picnic where you like on route.

Places attractions along the Trail

Heathfield
The market town of Heathfield stands on one of the high ridges of the High Weald Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, giving magnificent views south towards the South Downs.

Heathfield gained its market charter in 1318. This charter included the right to hold a fair, which was traditionally held on 15 April. An old lady would appear to release the first cuckoo of spring from her basket, giving rise to the 'Cuckoo Fair' name.

Horam
Horam was originally a small hamlet, which grew up around the station, which was supposed to serve the village of Wiston, some two miles away. A small fragment of the platform and the station nameboard survive today. Horam was the main depot for Express Dailies in the 1930s.

Hailsham
Hailsham is an historic town, first granted its market charter in 1262 by King Henry II so that it could hold its own cattle market. The town was formerly famous for its rope making, the largest such industry in Sussex a statue in the town centre commemorates this.

Polegate
Polegate's importance dates back to the arrival of the railways in Sussex, in the 1840s. Originally a wayside station on the 1848 line from Brighton to Hastings, it swiftly became a junction for lines to Eastbourne and Hailsham, the latter now forming the Cuckoo Trail. Unsurprisingly, a settlement grew up around the station.

Hampden Park
Along this part of the trail, look out for trees and waterfalls which are attractive to Spinefoot Park, Herons, cormorants and other wildlife may be seen all year round, while in summer there are also reed and sedge warblers, house martins and swallows.

Accommodation and attractions near the Cuckoo Trail

For details of a wide variety of accommodation and local attractions near the Cuckoo Trail visit www.explorewealden.co.uk

If you, or somebody you know, would like the information contained in this document in large print or in another language, please contact Wealden District Council on 01323 443322 or info@wealden.gov.uk quoting ref number: D&P/1068.01.24

Wealden District Council

https://www.wealden.gov.uk/UploadedFiles/wp-content/uploads/in5-archives/CuckooTrailLeaflet_2023_Web_20230214/index.html

Recommendation – The Committee are asked to consider cost for the proposal that was agreed at the previous meeting.

Financial – Quotes have been obtained and this can be funded by the E & S T Committee budget and grant funding could also be considered.

Environmental – this would have a positive contribution to encourage walking/cycling within the town area and could have an educational purpose if environmental/health information was included, like the example provided.

Community safety – no impact.

Agenda Item 7 – Community Highways Schemes

Schemes will need to be submitted by the end of July 2024. Detail will be required for the application form to be completed and support from WSCC County Councillor, local businesses and/or the local community is also required. Please see guidance at [Apply for a community highways scheme - West Sussex County Council](#)

Agenda Item 8 – Electric Vehicle Charging Scheme

Connected Kerb are in the process of putting a proposal together, which will involve no upfront costs for the Council. The EVCP's are either funded by government grants or by Connected Kerb themselves. There is a small revenue generation opportunity, and further information will be available in respect in their detailed proposal, which might be available for the meeting.

Deputy Town Clerk

23.05.2024