

EAST GRINSTEAD TOWN COUNCIL

ENVIRONMENTAL AND SUSTAINABLE TRAVEL COMMITTEE

THURSDAY 29TH FEBRUARY 2024 AT 7PM

Committee: Cllr S Ody (Chair & Deputy Town Mayor)
Cllr J Belsey (Vice Chair)
Cllr F Visser (Town Mayor) *
Councillors: M Belsey*, Farren, Gibbs, Mockford, Pond.
*= absent
** = present on zoom (this does not qualify as present for decision making)
+ = Ex officio membership is as virtue of another role and attendance is not mandatory

Also Present: Deputy Town Clerk
Cllr. Ian Gibson

304 **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

2 members of the public were present.

A resident spoke in respect of Windmill Lane and confirmed that clarification had been confirmed with the assistance of WSCC Councillor Ian Gibson, and the byway section was the responsibility of WSCC. This will be inspected by them but the resident raised concerns of how this will then be maintained by WSCC to reflect the character of the road, as they felt a tarmac surface would not be appropriate. It was noted that cars do park on the verges, but this does not cause any issues, although the usage has increased over the years. The Chair advised that the E & ST Committee is not the correct place to bring this issue and that it is a matter for WSCC and hopefully they will deal with the matter moving forwards. It was noted that WSCC are also responsible for the management of the trees.

A resident spoke to advise the Committee that the Town Action Group will be holding a litter pick on the 7 April and all Councillors are invited to attend, this will start from the museum. It was noted the Council could help promote this via the website.

305 **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Cllr. M Belsey	Personal commitment
Cllr. L Gibbs	Work commitment

306 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

None were noted.

307 MINUTES

RESOLVED: The minutes of the meeting held on the 21st December 2023 and 22nd January 2024 having been previously circulated were confirmed and signed by the Chairman.

308 CHAIRMANS UPDATE

A meeting was held with MSDC Officer Lara Southam – Head of Regeneration & Sustainable Economy and her colleague Anthony Else - Sustainability and Net Zero Coordinator in which subjects such as recycling, awareness days, cycle hire, bike bus and EV charging points were discussed. An introduction was made to Ian Myhill the Principle Transport Improvement Officer at WSCC and following this a meeting was held in which an update was provided on Active Travel and it was confirmed that S106 funds are available and the aim is to get schemes designed ready to go when further funds are available to implement the schemes. A follow up site meeting with Cllr. Ody and Ian Myhill will be held on the 8th May to look at the potential cycle/walking routes in the town.

A meeting has been arranged with MSDC and Connected Kerb in relation to EV charging points on the 13th March.

Following the meeting held with East Grinstead Memorial Estate in respect of potential additional walking/cycling route on the SANG the Deputy Town Clerk is waiting for costings from MSDC on similar types of schemes.

The Committee were advised that the costs of the installation of the SID poles has increased from the original quote to £3,500 plus VAT. This is an increase of £1,300 on the amount agreed of £2,200 at the November meeting. It was RESOLVED that the Committee approved the additional £1,300 expenditure.

309 ENVIRONMENTAL AND SUSTAINABILITY POLICY

To review the updated document for approval of the Council and confirm Councillors responsibilities in respect of the core areas of development of the policy.

Cllr. Farren advised that the mission statement will be completed by the next meeting.

The Chair advised that the five pillars for development of this document had been delegated to individual Councillors. Suggestions for projects were noted which could be incorporated into the document.

Natural Environment – Cllr. Mockford

Suggested projects could include encouraging schools to start gardening groups, leaving the edges of playing fields to grow which could serve as a teaching area for subjects such as art, science. Community orchards and gardens where each ward has a community gardening project that residents can take ownership. Provision of wildlife corridors including areas on cycling routes. Green roofs on bus stops which are currently being considered. Further tree and hedge planting, wildflower areas at sports venues within the town. Encourage the station to improve the quality of the entrance to the town, as currently no bins, a lack of parking. Improvements to land that the Council own including Turners Hill Recreation Ground and the two cemeteries, creating wildlife corridors such as the Weald to Waves project.

Community Wellbeing – Cllr. Ody

Suggested projects could incorporate community cycling, outdoor gym, promoting bike week, walk and wheel, cycle to work, splash pad, local maps for cycling/walking to encourage tourism, video maps, improvements for disability access, links with Age UK and care home residents, improvements to school streets, pathways around East Court estate accessibility, links with Bluebell railway, museum, second hand bike restoration, bike hire, recycling of bikes, encouraging community to recycling.

Investing in the Community – Cllr. M Belsey

Suggested projects could incorporate the repair café, grants to the community ie gardening, education, growing plants, butterfly farms, beekeeping, engagement with youth and facilities such as a BMX track and engagement with local business to support the youth in the town.

Energy – Cllr. J Belsey

It was noted that the energy use of the council is small compared to the residents of the town and suggested projects could incorporate promoting to the community via the website such areas as grants for heating insulation, green home grants, solar (although Solar Together are not offering any grants currently in Mid Sussex). Highlighting business opportunities, 'Lets Go Net Zero' is an online resource tool. Options should be considered for Council owned premises, ie alternative heating and solar.

Recycling – Cllr. Gibbs

Suggested projects could incorporate looking at waste production processing, tetra pack and initiatives to promote recycling by the community.

The above suggestions will be added to the document to review at the next meeting and Southern Sheeting will be asked for further advice. It was noted that the balance of costs for projects need to be considered.

310 ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT DOCUMENT

Cllr. Pond is still working on the document and will bring this back to the next meeting. This will be a working document which will tie in with the above policy.

311 AWARENESS DAYS

A meeting will be held on the 5 March to discuss the promotion of bike week (10-16 June) with Cllr. Ody, Cllr. J Belsey, Deputy Town Clerk, Community and Tourism Manager and a representative from EGBA.

It was suggested that the week could involve something happening every day and an awareness workshop for areas such as bike safety, repairs, insurance. A Kidical Mass is being held on the 9 June and a plan for the week will be available at the next meeting.

312 CYCLE PARKING

A report was provided to the committee with an initial costing for the works, which was high due to the groundworks to make the site level in this location.

RESOLVED: To move forward with the plan to install cycle racks in the location at East Court that has been agreed with two further quotations required and to consider other funding options that might be available.

The location agreed provided a safer location, being nearer the buildings, with lighting and CCTV coverage. It was noted that S106 funding might be available for this project and the Deputy Town Clerk was asked to investigate this.

313 BIKE BUS

To receive report on progress of scheme at Halsford Park Primary School.

Cllr. Ody reported that volunteers were being recruited, a minimum of 5 were needed and the plan is to launch in April after Easter. Currently the initial route is being planned, Whatsapp group has been set up, the risk assessment is still be completed. Cllr. Ody has been approached by St Mary's school and the Committee agreed that Cllr. Ody should contact them to discuss how the scheme works.

It was noted that WSCC Communities Highways and Environment Scrutiny Committee meet next week to discuss installation of signage around some schools to prompt parents not to park during school hours.

314 BIKE HIRE SCHEME

To receive update on sites and costings for scheme

It was noted that the original sites are not viable due to landowner permission not being available. The Deputy Town Clerk is awaiting a response from the railway network and WSCC in respect of two other sites. This scheme cannot move forward until sites are identified and confirmed. It was suggested that the MP is contacted to put pressure on in respect of the station site. Cllr. Ody would approach Sainsbury's to discuss if they may have a suitable location.

315 COMMUNITY HIGHWAYS SCHEMES

To receive report on scheme and consider the promotion of the scheme to residents.

It was discussed that the Committee could use the Community Highways scheme to highlight issues in the town and ask all Councillors to inform the Committee of any schemes in their wards that may fit with the requirements of these schemes. It was noted the date for completed applications is the end of July and the timescales for design and implementation is a two-year period. An email will be sent to Councillors to ask for ideas and suggestions for schemes.

It was noted that the ratio for successful applications is 1:5 and 20mph schemes have a higher rate of success.

316 DATES OF NEXT MEETINGS

18 April, 30 May, 25 July, 5 September, 28 November and 16 January 2025

The Chairman thanked all for attending and closed the meeting at 20:25 hrs.

The next meeting will be held on **THURSDAY 18TH APRIL 2024 at 7.00pm**