

EAST GRINSTEAD TOWN COUNCIL

ENVIRONMENTAL AND SUSTAINABLE TRAVEL COMMITTEE

THURSDAY 5TH SEPTEMBER 2024 AT 7PM

Committee: Cllr S Ody (Chair & Town Mayor)
Cllr H Farren (Vice Chair)
Cllr J Belsey (Deputy Town Mayor)
Councillors: Gibbs, Godwin, 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: Cllr. Barnett and Deputy Town Clerk

117 **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

Two members of the public were present.

A resident asked about the progress of St Margarets Loop and where the additional cycle parking would be at East Court. Cllr Farren advised a site meeting was being held with Railway Paths and confirmation was still required from WSCC in respect of them taking on the bridges, but the project was progressing still slowly. Cllr Ody advised the cycle parking would be situated near the parking area by the toilets, where there is lighting and CCTV in operation.

A resident wished to note that the north point on the location maps in the town does not point in the right direction and if they are updated in the future this should be corrected. It was noted the Community and Tourism Team would be advised of this information.

118 **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

No apologies.

119 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Cllr. Barnet noted that he was employed by UK Power Networks and declared an interest in item 124 in respect of electric vehicle charging points.

120 **MINUTES**

RESOLVED: The minutes of the meeting held on the 30 May 2024 having been previously circulated were confirmed and signed by the Chairman.

121 **CHAIRMANS UPDATE**

Cycle Parking at East Court – quotes are in the process of being obtained.

Bike Bus – The Chair and Deputy Clerk met with the headteacher of St Mary’s School on the 24 June who expressed an interest in getting a scheme set up and running in the new academic year. The headteacher was sent all the information and advised she will contact us in September with a date when the Chair/Deputy Clerk will visit the school to promote how the scheme works to encourage volunteers to come forward. No further update from Halsford Park Primary School in respect of additional volunteers coming forwards. The Deputy Town Clerk will contact the schools again in respect trying to encourage progression of the scheme.

Bike Hire Scheme – Awaiting further update from Govia Thameslink Railway (GTR) on the station site. They have been chased on several occasions, with no response.

Environmental & Sustainability Policy/Environmental & Sustainable Travel Project Assessment Documents – Councillors are working on these documents and the Environmental & Sustainability Policy will come back to the November meeting for further discussion.

Sustainable Travel – Following the meeting with Ian Myhill WSCC in May and the last meeting the list of suggestions has been forwarded for consideration. A further update meeting has been requested for October/November.

Shared Surfaces Meeting – to be held on the 18 September at 4pm

Living Bus Shelter – this has now been installed.

Solar Panels – It was noted this was looked at some time ago, but this did not progress any further. If the committee wish to look at this again, then the contractors could be contacted for further advice. The Committee requested this should be reviewed again for any schemes that might be suitable and that the Council should also consider using local contractors.

122 WALKING/CYCLING WEEK

The Deputy Town Clerk has proposed a couple of dates for a working party meeting, but due to Councillors availability these have had to be postponed. A new meeting date will be circulated for a Tuesday after 4pm as this seemed to be the best day/time for those involved.

123 SAFETY OF LITHIUM-ION BATTERIES AND E-BIKES AND SCOOTERS CONSULTATION

The consultation was noted on the report.

RESOLVED: To submit a response to support this consultation noting that this proposal should be a phased approach and to request that the Council receive updates in the future on the progress of the consultation.

124 ELECTRIC VEHICLE CHARGING SCHEME

An update was provided on the report and noted.

The Deputy Town Clerk reported a further update had been received. Connected Kerb have confirmed that the proposed location is suitable; however, funding could be an issue and

would need to be provided by Connected Kerb with a lease agreement for 15 years with the Council. The funding will be dependent on the internal approval of Connected Kerb and it will take a few weeks to obtain a response in respect of this. If they were to fund the scheme, they would be looking at 3 charge points which would use up to 6 parking bays within the car park and the spaces would need to always be accessible. Timelines for setting up a scheme would be around 12 weeks, following the signing of any lease and would also be dependant on the connection contractors.

It was noted that it needs to be ascertained that the charging points would be used as it appears recently installed chargers in other locations were not being used in the town and the issue of the potential development at the Old Police House could cause issues with parking at East Court in the future and the loss of 6 bays could be a further impact. However, it was also important to consider availability of EVC points for visitors and employees using the building and to encourage sustainable travel. These points could be considered once the costings were confirmed and perhaps some surveys carried out prior to moving forwards with the project.

The Chairman thanked all for attending and closed the meeting at 19:36 hrs.

The next meeting will be held on **THURSDAY 28 NOVEMBER 2024 at 7.00pm**