

EAST GRINSTEAD TOWN COUNCIL

ENVIRONMENTAL AND SUSTAINABLE TRAVEL COMMITTEE

THURSDAY 18TH APRIL 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

371 **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

No members of the public were present.

372 **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Cllr. J Belsey	Personal commitment
Cllr. H. Farren	Personal commitment

373 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

None were noted.

374 **MINUTES**

RESOLVED: The minutes of the meeting held on the 29 February 2024 having been previously circulated were confirmed and signed by the Chairman.

375 **CHAIRMANS UPDATE**

Cycle Parking at East Court – following the last meeting further quotes need to be obtained for this project and check on any planning consents that might be required. The Deputy Town Clerk will work towards obtaining this information for the next meeting.

Bike Bus – The scheme will be dependent on parent volunteers to run it and currently Halsford Park who are the trial scheme in the town only have 3 but the minimum required is 5. The Chair suggested that he would like to attend the school to promote and encourage volunteers to come forward and Cllrs. Mockford and Gibbs (depending on daytime availability) offered to assist. The Chair has written to the headteacher of St Marys but has had no response to date. It was suggested the catchment for The Meads and Baldwins Hill has less busy roads, and might be a better location for this type of scheme.

Electric Charging Points for East Court – A meeting was held with the Deputy Town Clerk and representatives from MSDC and Connected Kerb and further investigations into a potential location and infrastructure for supply are being conducted. The Deputy Town Clerk will have a report available for the next meeting.

SANG – still awaiting information from MSDC on similar types of schemes.

376 ENVIRONMENTAL AND SUSTAINABILITY POLICY

This document is still being collated for review at the next meeting.

377 ENVIRONMENTAL & SUSTAINABLE TRAVEL PROJECT ASSESSMENT DOCUMENT

This document is still being collated for review at the next meeting. This document will also be aligned to the pillars in the policy.

378 BIKE WEEK

Bike week is being held on the week 10-16th June and it has been added to the East Grinstead events guide, a couple of meetings have been held with Community & Tourism and EGBA to consider the events for the week, particularly aimed at businesses but the message for the week is 'to replace one journey with a bike ride'. Large employers in the town are being approached to get involved with the week.

The draft programme of events is still to be finalised, but currently the following activities are being considered.

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 and On Yer Bike will be in attendance to help with repairs. It was suggested EG Sports Council could get involved with this event as well.

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.

13th June – Potential of promoting cycling to the EGBA Summer gathering at Chequer Mead – Cllr. Mockford will check if the bike rack will be installed by then.

14th June – Bike Bus – if up and running

15th/16th June – EGCC to potentially lead a couple of cycle rides around the town/Forest Way. Another option would be to promote routes around the town looking at sites within the town, adding interest to the route to encourage participation. These can be promoted via website, social media.

The event will be fairly low-key this year and grow year upon year, with a working party being formed once the foundations are in place.

379 WALKING/CYCLE LEAFLET

The Committee agreed to look at producing a leaflet to encourage walking/cycling in the town by residents and to promote leisure activities and tourism.

RESOLVED: To move forwards with looking at production costs for the leaflet and how the project can be progressed further.

380 BIKE HIRE SCHEME

Following the last meeting progress has been made in relation to the sites for the docking stations. A site meeting was held with WSCC Highways and it was agreed that the grassed area on the A22 at the end of the Forest Way owned by Highways could be used for this purpose, a licence will need to be obtained to move forwards with this site. A meeting was held with Govia Thameslink Railway in respect of the station site and the Council are awaiting a response, however the feedback from the meeting was encouraging. The Committee agreed that both sites are good locations to start the scheme and once these are confirmed the final costings to include year on year costs will need to be approved by the Committee and subject to this the scheme will be able to move forwards. It was noted if the scheme was successful then more docking stations could be added, if sites could be found for example in a high street location. The scheme would have to be subsidised by the Council and the costs were noted on the Committee report. It was suggested that sponsorship could be sought from local businesses and that the Council would need to promote the scheme using the Council website. The Deputy Town Clerk will obtain further information from the bike company about potential sponsorship signs on the racks and livery of the bikes and establish further information regarding locks and how the app works.

381 DATES OF NEXT MEETINGS

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

The Chairman thanked all for attending and closed the meeting at 19:50 hrs.

The next meeting will be held on **THURSDAY 30TH MAY 2024 at 7.00pm**