



EAST GRINSTEAD TOWN COUNCIL

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ENVIRONMENTAL AND SUSTAINABLE TRAVEL COMMITTEE

Minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 20th May 2025

Committee Members: Cllr S Ody (Chair)
Cllr A Peacock* (Vice Chair)
Cllr J Belsey* (Town Mayor)
Cllr L Gibbs
Cllr J Mockford
Cllr C Pond
Cllr S Reeves* (Deputy Town Mayor)
Cllr T Scott*
Cllr F Visser*

In attendance: Town Clerk
Cllr S Barnett

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

A resident requested an update on St Margarets Loop – it was advised that dialogue was ongoing with WSCC regarding the transfer of ownership of the road bridges from Railway Paths without a commuted sum. WSCC had accepted the calculations relating to the impact of the infill on the bridges which had been welcomed. Once the matter of the commuted sum had been resolved it was hoped that the legal transfer of the bridges would commence.

Further quotations regarding installation of a bike rack at East Court were required before this could proceed.

The Chair started by welcoming all to the new civic year and all Councillors to the Committee.

1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Cllrs Peacock, Scott and Visser which were accepted.

2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were received.

3 TO APPROVE FOR ACCURACY THE MINUTES FROM THE MEETING OF 6th March 2025

RESOLVED: The minutes of the meeting held on the 6th March 2025 having been previously circulated were confirmed and signed by the Chairman.

4 CHAIRMAN'S UPDATE

The Chair noted the items on the report circulated with the agenda. In respect of the Bike Bus initiative in schools, volunteers were difficult to find however renewed efforts would be made to progress this. Active Travel England had some great promotional material which may

encourage the scheme. The Deputy Town Clerk was instructed to reach out to the school again regarding the Young Green Briton scheme.

National bike week was coming up and details of this would be shared throughout the town; Cycling UK were doing a promotion for this also.

5 TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE REGARDING THE WALKING/CYCLING LEAFLET

Progress had been made on the production of the draft leaflet with Sustrans involvement. Final design was underway with launch anticipated in July 2025.

RESOLVED: The Deputy Town Clerk was requested to share plans for distribution and promotion of the leaflet with the Committee e.g. where would the leaflet be located, and to share the draft leaflet with the committee for review prior to final sign off.

6 SHARED SURFACES WORKING GROUP

An invitation to tender document had been produced by MSDC in collaboration with EGTC and EGBA. This was being finalised with a view to issuing this to pre-identified consultants in late May, with a target response date of Monday 16th June 2025. MSDC would be funding the consultation. Once tenders had been received they would be considered with a view to receiving the completed proposals within 10-12 weeks (late September 2025).

7 SUSTAINABLE

TRAVEL

Meetings with WSCC had taken place, all items shared in the report were noted.

8 BIKE HIRE SCHEME AND CYCLE PARKING

The public survey into the proposed bike hire scheme had received approx. 80 responses to date. Further promotion of the scheme on social media would continue, and it would be included the next edition of The Line due to be published shortly. The survey results to date were informative, and would be analysed in more detail once the survey closed.

Concerns were raised regarding the allocated space offered by Southern Rail for a bike station and the risk that this may withdrawn in the future if not utilised.

RESOLVED: Committee resolved to commence installation of the bike rack at the train station up to a cost of £500.

WSCC had proposed a site exiting the Forest Way onto Herontye Drive as a location for a bike station, this would be investigated further.

Active Travel at WSCC were investigating using one of the car parking spaces on the High Street opposite Market Square for a bike station. The potential safety impacts of having a bike station at the Sports Centre was raised as a concern due to the roads within the area and their heavy use by large vehicles, especially as most cycle users would likely be leisure users.

Committee noted the second quote for cycle parking at East Court, which could potentially also be incorporated into the bike hire scheme as well. Active travel funding may be available for this, further quotes were being obtained before installation could be instructed.

9 SOLAR PANELS AT EAST COURT

One quote has been received to date to install solar panels at East Court, Meridian Hall and the Old Court House; 2 further quotes were being obtained which would be presented at the next meeting for consideration. Site visits were planned for early June.

S106 funding could be used to purchase the panels thus creating immediate energy savings for the East Court sites. Planning permission would be required.

10 BEE FRIENDLY TOWNS

East Grinstead were delighted to have been awarded the accolade of being a Bee Friendly Town, and friendly wooden bees had been installed around town. The Deputy Town Clerk would enquire whether it would be possible for the community gardens to receive some of the bees to install? A bee trail had been installed at East Court, the Deputy Town Clerk was asked to share details of the trail with local schools to invite them to visit.

11 TO NOTE ACTION ITEMS

Action list was noted.

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

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday 12th August 2025 at 7.45pm.