East Dean & Friston Parish Council

Date:	**02 March 2023**
Title:	**Report Item 15 – Correspondence**
By:	**K Larkin (Parish Clerk)**
Purpose:	**To report on correspondence received since the council meeting on 02 February 2023**
Recommendations:	**To note the report and consider any further actions in response to the correspondence**

Note: more items may be added to this schedule prior to the council meeting on 2 March 2023; a copy of the final version can be obtained by emailing the Clerk: clerk@edfparishcouncil.org.uk

The following items of correspondence have been received:

- **Blocked gulley at junction of the Jevington Road and the A259 –** following the complaint reported at the February meeting, the council has received the following response from East Sussex Highways: 'the cause of the flooding was a blocked outfall pipe on private property, preventing the highway drainage system from functioning correctly. Unfortunately the blockage took longer than we would have liked to be resolved, but I can confirm it has now been dealt with and the highway drainage system is now functioning correctly'

- **Sussex Heritage Trust –** at the December 2022 parish council meeting the Chair reported on 'Peers of the Public Realm', a local initiative to record and save historic street furniture. Residents have been asked through the parish magazine to contribute suggestions. The following have so far been nominated:
  - the George V letterbox in Old Willingdon Road)
  - Glebe Cottage where the last village Sister lived (Sister Thackery)
  - The Institute which had the village library in the 1960s, also used as a doctors consulting room
  - A query has also been raised about the mock-up of a Blue Plaque on the Green giving incorrect information to tourists

- **Debris washing down Friston Hill –** a resident has complained that the street sweeping team is failing to clear the mouth of the driveway that leads to two residential properties at the bottom of Friston Hill, and that this can cause run-off from the highway to collect in private driveways where it threatens to flood residential

properties. A report has been sent to the Street Scene Team at Wealden District Council, who have asked their contractor to come back and clear up within two weeks.

- **Endurance Life annual running event –** the parish council has been notified that this year's event is to be held on Saturday 18 March. The event is approved by Eastbourne Borough Council, and the start and finish will be in Helen Gardens, with parking mostly along Kind Edwards Parade. The route is unchanged from previous years, and is mostly within the Eastbourne boundary. It can be viewed here: Sussex 10k, Half Marathon, Marathon and Ultra – Endurancelife

- **Vandalism –** there has been an incident of vandalism in the twitten from Warren Lane to Peakdean Close (Footpath 17) where graffiti have been sprayed on a rear garden fence, with five aerosol paint cans set on fire. The incident has been reported to the police and the reference number for any further information is CAD:504 14/02/23. The PCSO for the village, David Morris, has also been informed.

- **Cycle rack in the village car park –** the Gilbert Estate has been consulted about the offer from Wealden District Council to install a four hoop bike rack in the village car park at their expense. The following response has been received:
  I understand cyclists like to have a dedicated place to "park" and preferably close to the destination, ideally within sight. As the car park serves the village hall, Hikers Rest, Deli, Village Green, Tiger Inn, Church, Farmers Market, is there potential for the proposed rack to either be in the wrong place, not be used or a precedent set for several such racks being requested? In order to best answer your questions, please could you let me know:

  - Has a problem arisen with bicycles being attached to railings, as is the case now?
  - Would the proposed rack need to be lit or under lighting?
  - How was the decision for four hoops arrived at – is it enough / too many?
  - Where do the Parish Council / Wealden suggest the optimum location is and why?
  - Has an alternative solution been considered – perhaps locking points/chains on the flint walls?
  - Are there demands for similar racks elsewhere in the village?

- **Litter picking donation** - a resident has reported that on Sunday 19 February under the leadership of Norm the **Bhassexplore** group (Beachy Head And Seven Sisters Extreme Plastic Object Removal - Eastbourne) numbering 15 spent the day picking litter and other rubbish from Friston Pond towards Gayles Farm. The target distance was not met due to the volume collected. The more bulky items included car wheels, exhaust pipes, computer and assorted car debris. In the main the collect was paper plastic and cans. The resident who joined the group for the day was the only local person to do so, and was impressed by the enthusiasm to 'clear the blight from this

beautiful area'. The resident asks that the Parish Council give consideration to offering a cash donation to the group in appreciation and recognition of their time efforts and devotion to our local environment. Norm has stated that the target set and not achieved will be subject to another pick.

- **Invitation to East Sussex Parish and Town Councils to take collective action over potholes** – the parish of Hadlow Down has sent a circular letter to all East Sussex parishes, reproduced in Annex A to this report, seeking support for collective action to persuade ESCC that there are more effective means of road maintenance than those currently used in many instances.