

Forest Row Parish Council

Clerk: Mr D O'Driscoll
Email: parishclerk@forestrow.gov.uk



(Office Hours: Monday to Friday 9am to 4pm)

To: All members of AMENITIES AND SERVICES COMMITTEE:

Cllrs. J Wogan (Chairman), Hill, Josephson, R Lewin, T Lewin, Pritchitt, Spackman, Summers and Williams
Mrs Susan Wright

Community Centre
Hartfield Road
Forest Row
East Sussex
RH18 5DZ

Tel: 01342 822661
Fax: 01342 825739
Email: info@forestrow.gov.uk
Website: www.forestrow.gov.uk

Dear Sir/Madam,
Your attendance is required at a meeting of the AMENITIES AND SERVICES COMMITTEE to be held on **TUESDAY 29th MARCH 2022 at 7.30pm** in the Garden Room of the Community Centre

Date: 23 March, 2022

Mr D O'Driscoll
Clerk to Forest Row Parish Council

THE FIRST FIFTEEN MINUTES WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR RELEVANT QUESTIONS AND REMARKS FROM THE PUBLIC – IF ANY.

AGENDA

1. PUBLIC QUESTIONS - the meeting will start no later than 7.45pm
2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE
3. TO DECLARE ANY INTERESTS OR REQUEST DISPENSATION PERTAINING TO THE ITEMS BELOW
4. RECORDS OF THE MEETING HELD ON 23rd NOVEMBER 2021
 - 4.1. To approve the minutes of the meeting of 23rd November 2021
 - 4.2. To consider any objections to deletion of the digital transcript of that meeting
5. CLARIFICATION OF ACTIONS FROM LAST MEETING
6. TO NOTE CLERK'S REPORT ON PENDING MATTERS NOT REQUIRING A DECISION
 - 6.1. Outdoor maintenance staffing & training
 - 6.2. Verge cutting by East Sussex
 - 6.3. Ashdown surgery access
 - 6.4. Highfields verge bollards
 - 6.5. Rush Green culvert
 - 6.6. JFC football field
 - 6.7. Playpark repairs
7. TO CONSIDER THE FINANCIAL REPORT
8. ALLOTMENTS
 - 8.1. To receive the Allotment Manager's / representative's report
 - 8.2. To resolve on matters arising for those reports
9. BURIALS & CEMETERY MATTERS
 - 9.1. To receive Burial Clerk's report & resolve on matters arising therefrom
 - 9.2. To consider the position over the cemetery extension

[Note for this item only, if relevant: Pursuant to Section 1 (2) of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 the committee believes that the public and press may be excluded from the meeting on the grounds of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted].

10. FOOTWAY AND OTHER LIGHTING

11. FOOTPATHS

11.1. To consider the condition of parish footpaths & resolve on appropriate action

11.2. To consider specifically footpath 22g & resolve on appropriate action

12. PARISH TREES & ALLIED MAINTENANCE

12.1. To consider issues of tree surveillance and resolve as needed

12.2. To consider correspondence re Gillam Bank & Lane and resolve as needed

13. CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED

14. ITEMS FOR REFERRAL TO FULL COUNCIL OR COMMITTEE

AMENITIES & SERVICES COMMITTEE

BACKING PAPERS FOR MEETING 29th MARCH 2022

Agenda item	Description	page
	Clerk's briefing to the Committee	1-3
7	Financial report	4-5
8	Allotments: manager's report	6
9	Burial clerk's report	7-9
11.2	Footpath 22g: correspondence Cllr Lewin / ESCC	10-13
	Correspondence C/Cllr Taylor / ESCC	14-17
12.1	Details of tree inspection training	18
12.2	Gilham Lane: letter from resident	19
	Emails from ESCC re status of lane	20-21
9.2	<i>To follow as available:</i> <i>Land valuation for cemetery extension</i>	
10	<i>Replies re streetlights & skatepark lighting</i>	

**COUNCILLORS' BRIEFING TO THE MEETING OF THE AMENITIES AND SERVICES COMMITTEE DATED
29th MARCH 2022**

1-5. FORMAL ITEMS: no complications foreseen.

6. TO NOTE CLERK'S REPORT ON PENDING MATTERS NOT REQUIRING A DECISION

6.1 Outdoor maintenance staffing & training. John McHale is now working 16 hours a week as part of the maintenance team and has settled in well. Don & John have recently done certificated chainsaw training, and Don & Harry have also attended first aid training.

6.2 Verge cutting by East Sussex. We were invited by East Sussex to take part in a wildflower verge trial: designated verges would be sown with wildflowers and left with one cut only per year. However, the information was incomplete and since there was an outcry last time they tried this in Forest Row, we declined to enrol in the trial. The issue will doubtless return next year, if deemed successful.

6.3 Ashdown surgery access. I chased this up in February, and was told by NHS Property: "We weren't able to secure funding in this fiscal year but will be pursuing it again in the new one (from 1st April)." I will continue to monitor.

6.4 Highfield verge bollards. Despite repeated requests, residents have persisted in parking on the A22 verge adjacent to Highfields and have ruined the grass. We have therefore decided to install low concrete bollards to prevent vehicle access. We may also do the same on the verge adjacent to the Hopyard, which has suffered similarly.

6.5 Rush Green culvert. As previously noted, we have not been able to find a blacksmith to make the necessary grille. However, it appears that Eric Lamprell may be doing some work in retirement, and he has been approached. A reply is awaited.

6.6 The JFC football field. On instructions from the JFC, we have applied to renew their permission to keep the shipping container at the corner of the field to store their kit, and they have paid the fee. It is currently with Planning, but success is not guaranteed.

6.7 Playpark repairs. The adult gym equipment has now been repaired. The children's playpark zip wire is scheduled for repair shortly. We are conducting a weekly inspection of the equipment to ensure no faults or damage are missed. **ACTION: to note**

7. FINANCIAL REPORT

A financial report to date is attached to the papers, amended to remove capital items.

As the year end approaches, income is at 161.9% of forecast, and expenditure at 78.9% of forecast, all of which presents a healthy picture. **ACTION: to note**

8. ALLOTMENTS

8.1 The allotment manager's report is attached. The allotment representatives (Cllr Summers & Ms Susan Wright) may wish to add their own comments.

8.2 Members will note for possible resolution:

- a) the proposal for a one-off skip to remove accumulated rubbish.
- b) a proposal (received after the above report) that ploholders should pay a refundable deposit to secure the return of the plot in good condition at the end of tenancy.

ACTION: to note reports and resolve as appropriate

9. BURIALS AND CEMETERY MATTERS

9.1 Burial Clerk's report. Sue Young's report is attached, giving the standard statistics. The clerk also draws attention to the issue of cemetery fees, which have not been reviewed since 2018. For Committee to consider.

9.2 The cemetery extension. I am hoping to be able to present to Committee the valuation recently commissioned of the proposed piece of and invite its views as to next steps. At the time of writing I am still awaiting confirmation from the land surveyor, *and please note that it may be necessary to consider his opinion under confidential business provisions, as commercially sensitive.*

ACTION: to note report/ opinion and resolve as necessary

10. FOOTWAY & OTHER LIGHTING

I was recently asked to make the following enquiries:

- a) as to the economics of converting all our streetlights to LED illumination to save electricity costs, and the advisability of extending the period of 'dark hours'.
- b) the feasibility and cost of adding to the skatepark lighting to cover the new extension, and the practicality of varying the 'dark hours' at that site.

At the time of writing I have not received replies from the relevant third parties on either issue, but will forward to Committee any responses prior to the meeting.

ACTION: to consider and resolve on appropriate next steps

11. FOOTPATHS

11.1 The general issue of footpaths was placed on the agenda at one Member's request, and she has been asked to speak to this item.

11.2 Footpath 22g. Our attention has been drawn to the deplorable state of this footpath (which bisects the allotment site and gives access to the Forest Way and Tablehurst Farm). Cllr T Lewin first contacted Rights of Way at East Sussex County Council in January. He followed this up with further correspondence in March, and received a reasonably positive reply. The correspondence is annexed to your papers – please take account of the reverse dating of emails threads. Our County Councillor has also taken up the issue and with her permission, this correspondence is also annexed. Does Committee wish to commit Parish funds to improving this path, as suggested?

ACTION: to consider & resolve as appropriate

12. PARISH TREES & ALLIED MAINTENANCE

12.1 Tree surveillance issues. Our contracted tree warden surveyed the Parish Council trees in the first part of 2020, and made recommendations. However, there was some ambiguity about the tree numbering and action was postponed. It was then effectively closed down by the pandemic. I am now in contact with the warden to update his findings.

There is also the issue of ongoing monitoring of tree health at a non-expert level. There is a course on offer (details attached) of a tree inspection course for non-professionals & volunteers. Does anyone wish to put themselves forward for this?

12.2 Correspondence re Gilham Lane. I attach an anonymised letter from a resident re Gilham Lane. The tree issue is being dealt with under 12.1 above, but the drainage ditch presents a different problem. I also attach correspondence with East Sussex over the status

of this lane (and its drainage channel). My reading of it is that ESCC has no responsibility for its upkeep, but also that it is not the Parish Council's responsibility either. If therefore we clear or repair the drainage channel, this is a matter of goodwill only, not obligation. What if anything does Committee want to commit us to?

ACTION: to consider and resolve on any appropriate action

13. CORRESPONDENCE None not already circulated

14. ITEMS FOR REFERRAL TO FULL COUNCIL OR COMMITTEE

Detailed Income & Expenditure by Budget Heading 22/03/2022

Month No: 12

Committee Report

	Actual Year To Date	Current Annual Bud	Variance Annual Total	Committed Expenditure	Funds Available	% Spent	Transfer to/from EMR
<u>Amenities & Services</u>							
<u>101 Allotments</u>							
1180 Allotment Rents	1,667	1,500	(167)			111.1%	
Allotments :- Income	<u>1,667</u>	<u>1,500</u>	<u>(167)</u>			<u>111.1%</u>	<u>0</u>
1135 Allotments-Water & Upkeep	1,401	1,500	99		99	93.4%	
Allotments :- Indirect Expenditure	<u>1,401</u>	<u>1,500</u>	<u>99</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>99</u>	<u>93.4%</u>	<u>0</u>
Net Income over Expenditure	<u>265</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>(265)</u>				
<u>102 Village Greens</u>							
1280 VG-Hire Income	1,194	500	(694)			238.8%	
1281 VG- Utilities Income	0	100	100			0.0%	
4180 Misc Income	496	0	(496)			0.0%	
Village Greens :- Income	<u>1,690</u>	<u>600</u>	<u>(1,090)</u>			<u>281.7%</u>	<u>0</u>
1236 Outdoor Maintenance	4,169	10,000	5,831		5,831	41.7%	
1237 Outdoor Planting	679	1,200	521		521	56.6%	
1239 VG-Utilities	70	250	180		180	28.0%	
Village Greens :- Indirect Expenditure	<u>4,918</u>	<u>11,450</u>	<u>6,532</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>6,532</u>	<u>43.0%</u>	<u>0</u>
Net Income over Expenditure	<u>(3,228)</u>	<u>(10,850)</u>	<u>(7,622)</u>				
<u>104 Amenities General</u>							
1400 Amenities grants/donations	0	0	0			0.0%	
4180 Misc Income	2,985	0	(2,985)			0.0%	
Amenities General :- Income	<u>2,985</u>	<u>0</u>	<u></u>			<u></u>	<u>0</u>
1436 Skate & Play areas	324	1,000				32.4%	
1447 Dog Fouling	2,340	3,000	660		660	78.0%	
Amenities General :- Indirect Expenditure	<u>2,664</u>	<u>4,000</u>	<u></u>	<u>0</u>	<u></u>	<u>66.6%</u>	<u>0</u>
Net Income over Expenditure	<u>321</u>	<u>(4,000)</u>	<u>(4,321)</u>				
<u>105 Outdoor Maintenance</u>							
1501 Outdoor Maintenance Equipment	3,131	3,000	(131)		(131)	104.4%	
Outdoor Maintenance :- Indirect Expenditure	<u>3,131</u>	<u>3,000</u>	<u>(131)</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>(131)</u>	<u>104.4%</u>	<u>0</u>
Net Expenditure	<u>(3,131)</u>	<u>(3,000)</u>	<u>131</u>				

Detailed Income & Expenditure by Budget Heading 23/03/2022

Month No: 12

Committee Report

	Actual Year To Date	Current Annual Bud	Variance Annual Total	Committed Expenditure	Funds Available	% Spent	Transfer to/from EMR
203 Street Lighting							
2314 SL-Power	3,681	1,500	(2,181)		(2,181)	245.4%	
2336 Streetlights	5,129	5,000	(129)		(129)	102.6%	
Street Lighting :- Indirect Expenditure	<u>8,810</u>	<u>6,500</u>	<u>(2,310)</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>(2,310)</u>	<u>135.5%</u>	<u>0</u>
Net Expenditure	<u>(8,810)</u>	<u>(6,500)</u>	<u>2,310</u>				
204 Road Safety							
2436 RS-Road Safety	0	500	500		500	0.0%	
Road Safety :- Indirect Expenditure	<u>0</u>	<u>500</u>	<u>500</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>500</u>	<u>0.0%</u>	<u>0</u>
Net Expenditure	<u>0</u>	<u>(500)</u>	<u>(500)</u>				
601 Cemetery							
6180 BU-Burial Fees	13,257	10,000	(3,257)			132.6%	
Cemetery :- Income	<u>13,257</u>	<u>10,000</u>	<u>(3,257)</u>			<u>132.6%</u>	<u>0</u>
6123 Cemetery Admin	0	300	300		300	0.0%	
6151 BU- Cemetery Rates	968	500	(468)		(468)	193.7%	
Cemetery :- Indirect Expenditure	<u>968</u>	<u>800</u>	<u>(168)</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>(168)</u>	<u>121.0%</u>	<u>0</u>
Net Income over Expenditure	<u>12,289</u>	<u>9,200</u>	<u>(3,089)</u>				
Amenities & Services :- Income	17,599	12,100				161.9%	
Expenditure	21,892	27,750		0		78.9%	
Movement to/(from) Gen Reserve	<u>(2,293)</u>						

Amenities & Services Committee Meeting - Tuesday 29th March 2022

Allotments Waiting List

- 14 people on the waiting list inside the Parish.
- 11 people on the waiting list outside the Parish.

Raised Beds Waiting List

- Nobody on the waiting list.

Site Inspection

- Tuesday 22nd March, inspection carried out and quite a few being worked.
- Any plots that are not worked after a certain time will be chased.
- Plots on Johnson's Field that are not worked to their full potential will be asked if they would like them halved.

Payments

- All payments renewals for 2021/2022 have now been received.

Site Entrances

- Chippings have been laid at the entrances where it is slippery and muddy.

Mini Skip

- Mini skip to remove materials/rubbish that have accumulated after the floods on Johnson's Field, and no one has owned up to. Instead, some people have added to the heap. This will also make it easier for the outdoor maintenance team to maintain the hedges and grass.

MEMORIALS AND INSCRIPTIONS APPROVED SINCE THE LAST MEETING ON 23rd NOV 2021

DEEDS OF GRANT OF EXCLUSIVE RIGHT TO BURIAL ISSUED SINCE THE LAST MEETING

DEED 1373	EB10	WELLS
DEED 1374	EB12	WALLS
DEED 1375	EB11	PALMER
DEED 1376	EC37	HIGGO

DEEDS OF GRANT TRANSFERRED SINCE THE LAST MEETING

DEED 741	H2I	TURNER	TO	WILLETTS
DEED 655	H8B	CARD	TO	RUMENS
DEED 665	H1D	POOLEY	TO	POOLEY
DEED 666	H2D	POOLEY	TO	POOLEY

RENEWAL DEED OF GRANTS

DEED 741	H2I	WILLETTS
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MEMORIALS AND ADDITIONAL INSCRIPTIONS AGREED SINCE THE LAST MEETING

DEED 741	H2I	MARKFORT
DEED 1261	EA28	HUMERSTON

INTERMENTS 2021/22

NAME OF DECEASED	GRAVE	FULL INTERMENT OR ASHES	COVID-19
WELLS	EB10	FULL	NO
RUDERT	380B	FULL	NO
MARKFORT	H2I	ASHES	NO
HOLMES	EB85	FULL	NO
RUMENS	H8B	FULL	NO
STEVENS	1544	ASHES	NO

HEADSTONES LAID DOWN FOR SAFETY SINCE THE LAST MEETING

NONE

REPORT ON ISSUES IN FOREST ROW CEMETERY

UPDATE ON PERMITTING – We are still awaiting confirmation from the ICCM to find out how the new permitting will affect our cemetery and future extensions. It would appear that the graves would need to be set further apart and larger in size. Until the report from the consultation is published the ICCM are not able to help us.

UPDATE ON TREE WORKS – I am pleased to advise that the tree works have now been carried out in the bottom right hand corner (Priory Road/Burnt House Lane) and the top left corner. The offending trees have had a crown lift and the hedges have been lowered to allow more light into the cemetery. This will also allow for new growth and a thicker hedge, it will hopefully assist the grass to grow in these extremely wet shaded areas. The bowed branches on the Cyprus Yew trees have been removed and the dead wood in one of the large conifers to the right hand side has been cut away for Health and Safety reasons.

Our outdoor maintenance team are working to trim back the Garden of remembrance plots to expose the memorials over the coming weeks which will finish off this area beautifully.

REVIEW OF CEMETERY FEES

The last cemetery fee review and increase took place in February 2018 and is now a year overdue.

Below is a comparison chart of fees payable at the nearest working cemeteries to us in Forest Row and I suggest the following increases to take effect this year at a date agreed by Amenities & Services Committee.

LOCATION	FOREST ROW	SUGGESTED INCREASE AT 10%	EAST GRINSTEAD	SNELL HATCH CRAWLEY	LITTLE TREES CRAWLEY	HAYWARDS HEATH WESTERN RD	EDEN VALLEY WOODLAND BURIAL GROUND
EROB FULL	£354	£389	£610	£876	£980	£507	£1400 SINGLE
EROB FULL NON-PARISHIONER	£1416	£1556	£1830	£1752	£1960	£2028	£1400 SINGLE
EROB ASHES	£118	£130	£190 FOR 2 INTERMENTS	£584.70	£615.90	£151	£350 PLOT £310 SCATTER
EROB ASHES NON-PARISHIONER	£472	£520	£570	£1169.40	£1231.80	£604	£350 PLOT £310 SCATTER
EROB FULL CHILD UNDER 12 YEARS	£118	£130	£200	£227.90	£331.90	NO CHARGE	NO CHARGE
EROB FULL CHILD UNDER 12 YEARS NON-PARISHIONER	£118	£130	£600	£455.80	£663.8	NO CHARGE	NO CHARGE
INTERMENT FULL ADULT	£118	£130	£440 5ft £540 7ft £610 8ft	£584.70	£584.70	£528 5ft £580 7ft	£550
INTERMENT FULL NON-PARISHIONER	£472	£520	£1320 5ft £1620 7ft £1830 8ft	£1169.40	£1169.40	£2112 5ft £2320 7ft	£550
INTERMENT FULL CHILD 12 YEARS OR UNDER	£0	£0	£150	£156.10	£155.60	£0	£0

INTERMENT FULL CHILD NON-PARISHIONER	£0	£0	£450	£312.20	£311.20	£0	£0
INTERMENT OF ASHES ADULT	£70	£77	£130	£162.30	£158.70	£160	£310
INTERMENT OF ASHES ADULT NON-PARISHIONER	£280	£308	£390	££324.60	£317.40	£640	£310
MEMORIAL PERMIT FEE FULL GRAVE	£118	£130	£210	£117.60	£116	£145	N/A
MEMORIAL PERMIT FEE FULL NON-PARISHIONER	£472	£520	£210	£235.20	£232	£580	N/A
MEMORIAL PERMIT ASHES PLOT	£60	£60	£55	£354.80 SUPPLY & FIX SINGLE TABLET	NO DETAILS	£58	N/A
MEMORIAL PERMIT ASHES NON-PARISHIONER	£240	£240	£55	£709.60 SUPPLY & FIX SINGLE TABLET	NO DETAILS	£232	N/A
ADDITIONAL INSCRIPTION FEE	£38	£41	£55	N/A NEW DOUBLE TABLET REQUIRED	NO DETAILS	£0	N/A
TRANSFER DEED OF GRANT FEE	£47	£51	£65	NO DETAILS	NO DETAILS	NO DETAILS	NO DETAILS
DUPLICATE DEED OF GRANT FEE	£25	£27	£115	NO DETAILS	NO DETAILS	NO DETAILS	NO DETAILS
SEARCH FEES FOR FAMILY HISTORY	£21	£23	£20	NO DETAILS	NO DETAILS	NO DETAILS	NO DETAILS

David O'Driscoll

From: Tony Lewin <tony@tonylewin.com>
Sent: 09 March 2022 15:35
To: Rights Of Way
Cc: Councillor Georgia Taylor; David O'Driscoll
Subject: Footpath 22g in Forest Row

Dear Rachel Solomons

I am writing as a member of Forest Row Parish Council regarding this repeatedly troublesome footpath.

You may remember our correspondence a year ago (copied below) in which ESCC kindly offered to meet 50% of the costs of remediating this footpath so that it remains usable throughout the year. At present, it is all but impassable from December through to at least March. I am hoping that this offer still stands - but in addition I would like to know whether the offer is part of the Community Match scheme, or whether that contribution can be added on top of the up-to £1500 already offered.

As a Parish Councillor I have received many complaints about the condition of this path in winter. I have urged these people to write to ESCC with their concerns. In addition I have had an approach from Tablehurst Farm, which as you probably know is a community-owned organic farm with a very popular organic shop and lots of activities for children.

Tablehurst raised the important point that the 22g Footpath is a key Active Travel route to the farm: it leads from Forest Row's biggest residential area across the fields direct to the Farm, a pleasant walk of perhaps 300 metres. By car - which because of the deep mud on the path in winter months would be the only route to the farm for the elderly and those with small children - the trip would be a couple of miles.

It is clear, therefore, that improving this path for year-round access would make an important contribution to local health, active travel and reducing unnecessary car journeys. And thus fully aligned with ESCC's environmental policy.

I am about to present a proposal to FR Parish Council for the upgrading of this path, and for that I need a bit more clarity on how much support to expect from ESCC. As I am sure you are painfully aware, money is extremely tight at Parish Council level, and I doubt whether we would be able to come up with much beyond £500. Tablehurst is not able to contribute to the costs, but may be able to help with volunteer labour. If ESCC could agree to cover the materials and perhaps digger hire, we would be in a much better position to get this scheme off the ground.

Please could you advise me on the next steps in this. I, along with many local residents, don't want to see another spring/summer go by when we miss another opportunity to upgrade this vital footpath. I look forward to hearing back from you.

I am copying this message to our County Councillor for her information.

Best regards

Tony Lewin

Tony Lewin
Forest Row Parish Council member
tony@tonylewin.com

M: +44 7768 203021

Dear Tony

We would need to approve any proposed works and should be able to make a contribution of 50% of costs up to a maximum of £1500.

We think the works shouldn't come to more than £2.5 – 3K if you are looking at something like a 60m x 2m stone path. We would recommend between 100mm and 150mm depth of MOT Type 1 stone, probably on a terram type membrane in this location, but would be happy to comment on an alternative specification if proposed.

I hope that helps,

Kind regards

Rachel Solomons

Rights of Way and Countryside

0345 6080193

eastsussex.gov.uk

[Privacy statement](#)



Dear Tony

Thank you for contacting us. I believe your report concerns Forest Row Public Footpath 22g. You can check the location referencing our online map which is available [here](#)

East Sussex County Council is responsible for maintaining the surface of 2,000 miles of footpath, bridleway and byway in the County. We receive our budget for path surfacing in March each year. At that time, we decide which paths can be improved within that budget. As we have a limited budget for maintaining path surfaces, and we can only improve around five to ten path surfaces each financial year, we have to focus our work on the most urgent cases.

While we appreciate that the path is an important link between the village and the Forest Way and would benefit from improvement I'm afraid that unfortunately it is not near the top of our list of priorities at the moment. However it is the sort of path in respect of which we might be willing to make a substantial contribution to the cost of improvements if another party were able to take the lead in arranging for those to take place.

I hope that helps,

Kind regards

Rachel Solomons

Rights of Way and Countryside

0345 6080193

eastsussex.gov.uk

[Privacy statement](#)



David O'Driscoll

From: Tony Lewin <tony@tonylewin.com>
Sent: 29 January 2021 15:38
To: David O'Driscoll; jwoganfrpc@gmail.com
Subject: Fwd: [PUBLIC] Footpath in Forest Row

Hi Jane, hi david

Surprisingly quick and helpful reply from Footpaths division. To no one's surprise we're well down the queue, but they may be prepared to make a 'substantial' contribution to the costs. I have messaged her back to ask what they mean by 'substantial'. I await her reply with interest.

Result? maybe.... let's see.

Have a good weekend!

tony

Tony Lewin
Journalist, Translator, Editorial Consultant

tony@tonylewin.com

M: +44 7768 203021

Begin forwarded message:

From: Rights Of Way <Rights.Way@eastsussex.gov.uk>
Subject: RE: [PUBLIC] Footpath in Forest Row
Date: 29 January 2021 at 14:16:47 GMT
To: "tony@tonylewin.com" <tony@tonylewin.com>

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Kind regards

Rachel Solomons

Rights of Way and Countryside

0345 6080193

eastsussex.gov.uk

[Privacy statement](#)



From: tony@tonylewin.com <tony@tonylewin.com>

Sent: 29 January 2021 11:03

To: Rights Of Way <Rights.Way@eastsussex.gov.uk>

Cc: tony@tonylewin.com

Subject: [PUBLIC] Footpath in Forest Row

This email has been sent to you via the website by a member of the public. You are the first person to read it. Please process and respond accordingly.

If you are not the right person to deal with the enquiry, please forward to the correct team as soon as possible.

If you do not know who to redirect this email to, please contact the Web Team.

Thank you.

FROM: Tony Lewin

MESSAGE:

I'd like to ask about a footpath in the centre of Forest Row. It runs between our two sets of allotments and links Medway Drive with the Forest Way, National Cycle Route 21. Every winter this short stretch of path becomes extremely muddy, and this year it is much worse than ever. It's also worse because it is used by hundreds of people like me every day. The mud is ankle deep, and it can be both sticky and dangerously slippery. I have nearly fallen several times. My question to you is this: could some drainage be arranged (there is a ditch on one side) or could some kind of surface be laid so as to lift people clear of the mud? I'm about to write about this in a local newsletter, so I would appreciate hearing what your position is. Many thanks!

Please respond by email to tony@tonylewin.com or by phone on 07768203021

This email was sent from the following device:

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David O'Driscoll

From: Councillor Georgia Taylor <Cllr.Georgia.Taylor@eastsussex.gov.uk>
Sent: 10 March 2022 13:49
To: Alistair Wallis
Cc: Andrew Le Gresley; Rights Of Way; Tony Lewin
Subject: RE: Forest Way surface improvement works

Hi Alistair,
Thanks so much for your encouraging reply. I am sure the community would be especially pleased to know that this might be going ahead.
All the best
Georgia

Cllr Georgia Taylor

East Sussex County Councillor
Forest Row and Groombridge Division
Twitter: @Georgia_t

[07510 074255](tel:07510074255)
eastsussex.gov.uk



From: Alistair Wallis <Alistair.Wallis@eastsussex.gov.uk>
Sent: 10 March 2022 12:09
To: Councillor Georgia Taylor <Cllr.Georgia.Taylor@eastsussex.gov.uk>
Cc: Andrew Le Gresley <Andrew.LeGresley@eastsussex.gov.uk>; Rights Of Way <Rights.Way@eastsussex.gov.uk>; 'Tony Lewin' <tony@tonylewin.com>
Subject: RE: Forest Way surface improvement works

Dear Georgia,

Thank you for your email.

I can see the benefit of improvements being made to the surface of this path, as it is a useful link, not just to Tablehurst Farm, but onto the Forest Way itself.

I have forwarded your suggestion on to my colleagues, Andrew Keer (Scheme Delivery Manager) & Lisa Simmonds (Infrastructure Planning & Policy Manager), who are managing the Active Travel funding.

This is not a particularly large surfacing job, but in the event that there are no funds available from the Active Travel Fund, the proposal to make a contribution of 50% of costs up to a maximum of £1500 is still an option.

I will keep you updated once I've heard back from Andrew and Lisa.

Best Regards,

Alistair Wallis

Principal Countryside Maintenance Officer
Rights of Way & Countryside

Tel: 01273 335276 / 07825 926628

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From: Councillor Georgia Taylor <Cllr.Georgia.Taylor@eastsussex.gov.uk>

Sent: 10 March 2022 09:35

To: Alistair Wallis <Alistair.Wallis@eastsussex.gov.uk>

Cc: Andrew Le Gresley <Andrew.LeGresley@eastsussex.gov.uk>; Rights Of Way <Rights.Way@eastsussex.gov.uk>; 'Tony Lewin' <tony@tonylewin.com>

Subject: RE: Forest Way surface improvement works

Dear Alistair

Please find attached an email from our Parish Council to Rachael Solomons (RoW email address copied). I am wondering whether some of the funds for surface improvements for the Forest Way could be channelled to this project for the improvement of a footpath. It is a fairly small section I believe, but would be a huge difference to residents, and would be possible within the timeframe of your active travel budget. (I take your point about the other suggestions that I made in my previous email). Please see the attached email for details of the proposal.

Thank you so much

Best wishes

Georgia

Cllr Georgia Taylor

East Sussex County Councillor

Forest Row and Groombridge Division

Twitter: @Georgia_t

[07510 074255](tel:07510074255)

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From: Alistair Wallis <Alistair.Wallis@eastsussex.gov.uk>

Sent: 02 March 2022 12:21

To: Councillor Georgia Taylor <Cllr.Georgia.Taylor@eastsussex.gov.uk>

Cc: Andrew Le Gresley <Andrew.LeGresley@eastsussex.gov.uk>

Subject: RE: Forest Way surface improvement works

Dear Councillor Taylor,

Thank you for your email dated 23rd February regarding the above. I have consulted with my colleagues Andrew Keer (Scheme Delivery Manager) & Lisa Simmonds (Infrastructure Planning & Policy Manager) and their response is as follows:

The funding which has been prioritised to improve the Forest Way is Department for Transport Active Travel Funding and must be spent by June 2022. ESCC received some additional funding above which was originally bid for. Therefore, this allocation combined with an underspend within the programme will deliver an improvement which aligns with the funding objectives and is similar to other projects delivered as part of this programme.

In respect of your suggestion for piloting specific "priority" roads for cycling and walking, I'm afraid this isn't a project that could be developed and introduced within the time constraints of the active travel funding referred to above. Cycle routes that are introduced on roads by way of signage only require a significant amount of design and

investigative work to ensure that they are safe for cyclists to use – at all times of the day – and carriageway widths, traffic flows and average vehicle speeds are just some of the factors that must be considered.

All changes of this type to the highway are subject to a three stage Road Safety Audit process and would be subject to statutory stakeholder consultations, including with the Conservators of Ashdown Forest (in respect to the signage). The scheme would also have to be supported by Sussex Police who may have to enforce any restrictions introduced. Unfortunately, these processes take considerable time and resource to work through and so could not be developed using the active travel funding available. The Forest Way is a considerable active travel asset for residents and visitors to East Sussex and the short-term funding opportunity will allow us to improve and protect this important facility, which is welcomed.

We will be launching an initial consultation on the East Sussex Local Transport Plan during 2022 and you may wish to consider raising these as part of this consultation

Should you have any further queries, please let me know.

Kind Regards,

Alistair Wallis

Principal Countryside Maintenance Officer
Rights of Way & Countryside

Tel: 01273 335276 / 07825 926628

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From: Councillor Georgia Taylor <Cllr.Georgia.Taylor@eastsussex.gov.uk>

Sent: 23 February 2022 15:09

To: Alistair Wallis <Alistair.Wallis@eastsussex.gov.uk>

Cc: Andrew Le Gresley <Andrew.LeGresley@eastsussex.gov.uk>

Subject: RE: Forest Way surface improvement works

Thank you very much for this information Alistair. It is good news that the surface of the Forest Way might be levelled out a bit, however I am not sure this is the most urgent need for active travel in this area. We have real safety issues with cycling and walking along roads, where signs and some footpaths could be improved. I would also be interested in piloting a cycling/walking priority road between two villages or within the Ashdown Forest (e.g. on the way to Crowborough or from Wych Cross to Coleman's Hatch) – where cycle and walking signs would be painted on the road and there are clear signs saying that it is a priority for walkers and cyclists. Cars are still allowed, but they must drive slowly and give way to cyclists and walkers.

Also, before deciding how to spend the funds, it would be good to consult with local people in Forest Row, Hartfield, Withyham and Groombridge to hear their views about priorities for active travel. I know this can be time consuming, but I am sure you could use social media with a short questionnaire. Each village has a facebook group, there is also an active community WhatsApp group in Forest Row.

All the best

Georgia

Cllr Georgia Taylor

East Sussex County Councillor

Forest Row and Groombridge Division

Twitter: @Georgia_t

[07510 074255](tel:07510074255)

eastsussex.gov.uk



From: Alistair Wallis <Alistair.Wallis@eastsussex.gov.uk>
Sent: 22 February 2022 09:25
To: Councillor Georgia Taylor <Cllr.Georgia.Taylor@eastsussex.gov.uk>
Cc: Andrew Le Gresley <Andrew.LeGresley@eastsussex.gov.uk>
Subject: Forest Way surface improvement works

Dear Councillor Taylor,

I am writing to let you know that funding has been made available from the government's [Active Travel Fund](#) to finance some work to improve the surface of the Forest Way Country Park (FWCP). The original surface has lost some of the finer material causing it to be rather bumpy in places. These works aim to smooth out the surface by reapplying a top dressing of limestone fines.

Work is due to commence from the 14th of March 2022 until the 30th of May.
Unfortunately, this will mean that sections of the FWCP will have to be closed whilst the work is carried out.

I wondered if you knew of any local groups who you thought it would be wise to inform, giving notice of the work?

Feel free to contact me with any questions on this matter.

Kind Regards,

Alistair Wallis
Principal Countryside Maintenance Officer
Rights of Way & Countryside

Tel: 01273 335276 / 07825 926628
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David O'Driscoll

From: East Sussex Admin <admin@esalc.co.uk>
Sent: 25 February 2022 09:17
To: East Sussex Admin
Subject: Compliance Training Opportunities - Basic Tree Survey and Inspection - next course 24th May

Dear Clerk,

Please see the below email from LANTRA regarding tree surveys and inspections. Please contact them directly with any queries or to book onto a course.

Kind regards,

Emily Simpson
Admin & Finance Assistant, ESALC

Good Morning Ladies,

I hope you are well.

Please would you be able to circulate our next LANTRA Basic Tree Survey and Inspection course on Tuesday 24th May

With recent storms we have received increased interest in our course and concern from local con previous courses we have received a huge demand from clerks, councillors and tree wardens with positive feedback from all attendees.



South East Landbased
Training Courses LLP



LANTRA Basic Tree Survey and Inspection

- State the legal and safety implications of hazardous trees
- Determine level of risk
- Maintain your own health and safety while carrying out a basic tree survey and inspection
- Decide on appropriate course of action
- Recognise hazardous trees
- Collect and maintain adequate information
- Recognise your own limitations

Tuesday 24th May / £185+vat per attendee

South of England Showground, Ardingly

info@seltc.co.uk / 07437 601161

FRPC Reception

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 20 March 2022 10:59
To: FRPC Reception
Subject: Gilham Lane

Dear Sirs,

[REDACTED]. You will be aware that there is a small patch of land running along the lane (I think called Gilham Bank) that belongs to the Parish Council. Many months ago a number of the trees on that patch (particularly those immediately adjacent Gilham Lane) were marked for cutting down. Please can you advise when the work will actually be undertaken.

Further, you will also be aware there is a small stream running down part of Gilham Lane (water run off from the patch of land and into the spring on Gilham Lane). The stream is now mostly blocked and has been destroyed by the council bin trucks that come down the lane every week. I recall that once a year or so, the Parish Council would re-dig the stream to prevent overflow, but this has not happened for at least 2 years and thus the stream is getting progressively worse and water is overflowing into Gilham Lane.

I would be grateful if you could revert on the above issues.

Kind regards,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

David O'Driscoll

From: Rights Of Way <Rights.Way@eastsussex.gov.uk>
Sent: 08 April 2021 14:47
To: David O'Driscoll
Subject: RE: Gilham Lane, Forest Row

Dear David

Sorry for the delay in replying, I was checking with my colleagues about this.

The lane appears only ever to have been recorded as a public footpath on the Definitive Map. It is not believed to be maintainable at the public expense. In principal therefore, the maintenance will probably fall to the frontagers or owners of the land on either side up to the centre of the lane under common law. The maintenance of the ditch will fall similarly to the common law owner under riparian responsibility. So it is most likely to be the owner of the land adjoining the ditch that is the person responsible for its maintenance.

I hope that this has helped a little.

Kind regards

Ruth China-Roberts
Rights of Way Officer
Rights of Way & Countryside

01273 335235 | 0345 6080193

<https://www.eastsussex.gov.uk/privacy/rights-of-way-and-countryside/>

David O'Driscoll

From: Highway Searches <Highway.Searches@eastsussex.gov.uk>
Sent: 07 April 2021 12:17
To: David O'Driscoll
Subject: RE: Gilham Lane, Forest Row

Dear David

Our Rights of Way colleagues have forwarded your email to us to see if we can add any further details. They have confirmed there is a public footpath running along the lane. I have asked our Rights of Way Team to confirm what this means directly – though they may have already done so?

With regards to its status – The County Council considers Gilham Lane to be private, with no highway rights over it. Any rights would therefore be private.

From a highway perspective any maintenance of this way would be a private issue & most likely sit with either the owner(s) of the road or those with a frontage onto it (i.e. the frontagers). There may be information contained within the deeds of the properties along this lane to indicate responsibility (i.e. X gives access to Y over Z piece of land etc) ? This will probably include the ditches/ditch maintenance?

Land Registry is indicating no known owner so, assuming that there is no helpful information on ownership contained within the deeds of the properties accessing this lane then it is most likely going to be frontagers who are responsible for maintenance (usually this is the part of the property fronting the road to a mid-point) I have checked and the County Council do not own any land along this lane.

I hope this helps?

If you have any questions about this enquiry or any further highway queries please don't hesitate to contact us, our team details are below

Regards

Jane

Jane Whitaker
Land Technician
Highway Land Information Team
Communities Economy & Transport

Team 01273 482316
highwaysearches@eastsussex.gov.uk
eastsussex.gov.uk

