

## **Correspondence up to July 4<sup>th</sup> 2019 (Including meeting note on High Weald AONB Training for Parish Councils)**

1. An update from the PCSO:
  - a. The PCSO has delivered letters to residents living in the following two locations, the junction of Spring Lane and the junction of Batemans Lane about not parking on the junction, making it dangerous for vehicles exiting onto the A265.
  - b. They attended the school fete.
  - c. The PCSO was on site for the Road Traffic Collision in Shrub Lane. Happy to report very minor injuries.
  - d. An intel log has been made for a suspicious male and vehicle in Hornbeam.
  - e. They are continuing to do speed checks throughout the village. Obviously everyone slows down when they see the PCSO, so no excessive speeding seen, but it does press home the message that they maybe there.
  - f. She would like to know if there is an interest in her organising a drop-in session for residents in Burwash.
2. To confirm the Penna group will be arriving on the 12<sup>th</sup> July to clean down the High Street and Ham Lane bank. Celia Caulkin will be on site and the Clerk will meet the volunteers to show the work and areas to focus on.
3. We have been asked to see if someone would come at look at the road outside Highfields as the road is dropping away. Also the resident has reported that cars are speeding around the road and have asked if there could be consideration to a 'Children Slow' sign put up?
4. Rye Green Farm Buildings – We have now heard back from the National Trust who have agreed for a meeting to take place. Council are asked to resolve for Cllr Kenny to Chair the meeting and the Clerk find a suitable date for Cllrs and residents to meet with the National Trust to understand:
  - a. What emergency works are taking place – Council deem the buildings to be very dangerous so will they be coming down?
  - b. If they have no funding to restore the site would they consider doing a joint funding bid with the Council to regenerate the wildlife and fauna of the area and the nearby old pig sty to improve the look and biodiversity of the area.
5. James Newmarch has reviewed the trees on the triangle at Vicarage Road and although there is some dead wood he sees no immediate concern. He will inspect again in Autumn but residents please keep him posted if there is any change to the condition of the trees.
6. The local speedwatch group have been in touch asking about a contact from the Council for the group to liaise with. They have also asked for equipment which is dealt with later on in the agenda.
7. Residents have raised concerns about the lack of cutting of the verges around Hornbeam and Beechwood Close. These areas were not passed onto the Parish Council for managing in the Urban Cuts contract. The Clerk has had it confirmed that Optivo are responsible for cutting the verges around and down Hornbeam and will investigate who is responsible for Beechwood Close.
8. The grass area around the Poppy bench was missed by the grass contractor who will be doing this area w/c 08/07 and has been asked to do the corner of Rother View and Shrub Lane and to include in future cuts.
9. Residents have been in touch regarding the hedges down at Hornbeam which they have asked to be cut. Following this Kenny and Rees will inspect the area and Cllr Rees has offered to speak to the residents to confirm they all wish to have their hedges cut back and agree a

height. This will then be discussed with Orchard Landscapes for a quote for the work and a date agreed as soon as the nesting season is over.

## 10.

### High Weald AONB Training for Parish Councils

Anne Newson and Julian Kenny attended the High Weald AONB training event for Parish Councils in Crowborough on Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> July.

It was an interesting event and it is clear that we need to work more closely with other local Parish Councils as we can learn a great deal from each other as there were many useful discussions in the sessions and with fellow councillors.

### Overview of the High Weald AONB

The High Weald AONB is the second largest AONB in the UK, it covers 4 county councils (East/West Sussex, Kent & Surrey), 11 district councils and 99 parish Councils and the High Weald is the best preserved medieval landscape in northern Europe.

The High Weald AONB is able to provide advice/guidance for conservation and enhancement of AONB. They mainly focus on research, reports and advice on management. The 20 year management plan for the High Weald AONB is reviewed every 5 years and has just been reviewed.

<http://www.highweald.org/downloads/publications/high-weald-aonb-management-plan-documents/2291-high-weald-management-plan-4th-edition-2019-2024/file.html>

### Planning Issues

The High Weald is experiencing the highest level of housing growth of any AONB in England, from an average of 186 units per year 2001-2011; to 895 units per year 2015-2017. A new draft Design Guide has been published to help developers and planners to ensure that designs are appropriate for the High Weald. It is a new useful document and the Parish Council should use it to comment on new development plans. Some interesting points include:

- Roads or footpaths should go **through** developments to make sure that they are part of the community e.g. no cul-de-sacs and/or include a footpath and/or view onwards
- Parking should be to the side of houses, not at front to create developments that are not car-focused developments
- Historic maps and identified views should be taken into account in planning decisions
- Recommended Reading CPRE Beauty Betrayed (see attached)

### Educational Work

The team also talked us through their educational work with schools and they already work with the school in Burwash, but suggested that Parish Councils could work in association with them and with schools. There was also information about the Lund Grants and they encouraged all parish councils to apply and they are able to provide help and support with applications. The grants of £250,000 pa are typically not all taken up.

### Other Areas of Work

- Working with power companies and land owners and trying to bury power cables
- Restoring hedges and planting new trees from external funding in association with farmers and other landowners.
- Promotion of dark sky friendly lighting.

- Burwash was listed as a parish that had recorded light pollution. They are looking for volunteers to record light pollution in other areas across the High Weald.
- The High Weald Newsletter is published monthly. If we want items to be included, we should contact them. They asked councillors to sign up to their newsletter: <http://www.highweald.org/news/e-news.html>
- The High Weald Walking Festival. Last year over 400 people walked over 46 walks across the High Weald. Walks are from 1hrs to full day walks 14-22 September. Each walk has a guide who gives info on the walks. There are no current walks listed for Burwash.

#### Suggestions for the Parish Council moving forward

1. Look at sharing ideas from PC to AONB Unit – maybe appoint a liaison person. This could link in with the previous idea about allocating a liaison councillor to neighbouring PC's more e.g. Brightling, Ticehurst/Stonegate, Etchingham (spoke to Brightling – they are interested).
2. Consult the High Weald AONB on any contentious housing issues.
3. Develop a dark skies policy using the Wadhurst policy as a model.
4. Work with the High Weald AONB and the National Trust to run a Dark Skies event at Batemans. The High Weald would be keen to help out + they would like to work with us on a dark skies walk in/around Burwash.
5. Create a range of walks for the website and suggest one for the High Weald Walking Festival.
6. We should comment on their Design guide which is out for consultation.
7. Consider how to extend their offer to talk to landowners / farmers (both existing and those moving into the Parish – latter could be through the Welcome Pack) about the significance of their landscape / natural /biodiversity features and how to preserve and protect them.
8. Promote their Upper Rother and Dudwell Landowners' Cluster group which meets to discuss issues of significance (giant hogweed, deer prevalence etc. promoting wildflower meadows).

**11.**