

Note to	Burwash Parish Clerk
From	Steve Moore
Subject	Transfer of the Car parks from Rother District Council (RDC)
Date	2 nd October 2020

1. Summary

- 1.1 This note sets provides an outline of the current position reached on the discussions with RDC concerning the possible transfer of the two car parks from RDC to Burwash Parish Council (BPC). It also considers the creation of a Traffic & Transport Work Stream Project Group to specifically work on the proposed introduction of electric vehicle charging points (EVP) initially in the main car park
- 1.2 Last month RDC advised BPC that they would not transfer the car parks without the toilets and that there would not be any ongoing revenue support for BPC. As this would have a considerable impact on the BPC finances, further discussions were held to explore other options.
- 1.3 A meeting was arranged through Cllr Kirby-Green for the Parish Clerk, Steve Moore on behalf of the Parish Council and Cllr Kirby- Green to meet with Cllr. Prochak who is the Deputy Leader of RDC and the Cabinet Member with responsibility for public conveniences.
- 1.4 BPC suggested a new approach to settle this matter which involves the following :
- introduction of a scheme through which local businesses provide access to the general public to use their toilet facilities (this scheme is already in place in Wealden).
 - introduction of a grant scheme to compensate the local businesses involved
 - RDC to provide funding to demolish the toilets and make good the ground to provide additional car parking spaces
 - BPC working with RDC to introduce the first phase of EVP's initially in the main car park
- !5 This set of proposals was welcomed by Cllr. Prochak and a further meeting was held on 1st October. This was attended by Cllr. Franklin, the Parish Clerk, Steve Moore, Cllr Kirby- Green, Cllr. Prochak plus Joe Powell Head of Housing and Community Services and Lynsey Goodwill Community Services Manager at RDC. A minute of this meeting is attached to this note.
- 1.6 In outline RDC are now keen to move forward with this proposal and have undertaken to get the amended lease to BPC before the next BPC meeting, carry out an asbestos survey on the toilet block and to obtain quotations for the cost of the demolition of the toilets and making good as additional parking spaces. RDC will also now explore the level of financial support they could provide towards the grants to be paid to the local businesses that provide access to their toilets.

2. Improving the Car Parks

2.1 If the positive approach taken by RDC at these last two meetings works through to an agreed outcome the BPC will need to consider a number of associated matters in order to deliver these proposals. These include :

- a. Introduction of the Business Public Toilet scheme including level of grants awarded and standards expected
- b. Planning application for the demolition of the toilets RDC or BPC?
- c. Who demolishes RDC or BPC?
- d. Relining and patch repairs to the main car park RDC or BPC?
- e. Introduction of Electric Vehicle Charging points initially in the main car park.
- f. Introduction of BPC rules of usage for the car parks

3. Conclusion

3.1 Should the current proposals result in an agreement to transfer the Car Parks this would be a significant achievement for the Parish Council. How the works are taken forward also offers the PC opportunities to improve and start to future proof the car parks use for some years to come. This will however need extra resource and in view of this it is recommended that a small Project Group drawn from the Traffic & Transport Work Stream is put together to take this forward. They would work alongside the current Group who are negotiating this agreement until this is formally agreed.

3.2 A call for volunteers for this Project Group should be made at the T & T Work Stream Group on Monday 5th October 2020.