

Agenda Item no.	
Subject	Environment and Maintenance Work Stream - Pavers
Report to	Burwash Parish Council
From	Cllr Steve Moore
Date	12 th November 2019

1. Environment and Maintenance Work Stream

1.1 Part of the Environment and Maintenance Work Stream includes a project to “Seek listed status for the village pavements”.

This report looks at this aspect of the work stream and sets out the programme to take this forward.

2. Burwash Village Pavements

2.1 Within the Conservation Area the pavements are predominantly paved. These along with the lime trees provide a distinct character to the village and frame the historic high street perfectly. The Rolling Plan recognised the need to protect these from cuts in local government resources and to do this the Parish Council agreed to seek listed status for the village pavements.

2.2 Unfortunately there are currently four areas (outside Altered Images, The Old Rectory, Burghurst Manor and Denes House) which have over the years had the pavers removed and not replaced. Additionally the pavers across the conservation area are often dug up and in many cases the utility companies simply throw away the original pavers and when they are replaced they are often not sympathetic with the originals and are the wrong size, having removed imperial pavers and replaced them with metric. As the correct pavers are difficult to obtain we will be looking for East Sussex County Council (ESCC) to include, within their licenses granted to the utilities, the need to retain and replace the original pavers.

2.3 Rother District Council (RDC) has advised that should we seek and gain listed status that this would cover the pavements as they are now and would in practice mean that the four missing areas would have to remain as they are or a specific planning application for listed permission would need to be made to seek a change.

3. Meeting with ESCC

3.1 A meeting has now been arranged with ESCC on 22nd November to discuss how best to protect these pavements. At this meeting we will be seeking the following :

- to open discussions on the possibility of transferring the existing budgets to the Parish Council
- continued inclusion within ESCC insurance for falls and trips etc
- inclusion of the requirement for utilities to retain and reuse the pavers when they dig them up
- ability to use our own contractors to carry out the reinstatement and to upkeep the pavers

It is thought unlikely that all of the above will be agree but it will set out in clear terms our desire to ensure that this village asset is protected for future generations.

4. Works programme

- 4.1 It is intended to look to replace three of the four areas where the pavers have been removed previously over the next 2/3 years. As part of this programme, at the last Finance meeting it was agreed to include the sum of £750 in the 2020/21 draft budget. It is intended to look for grant funding to assist with the overall costs and to also see if the owners for the properties next to these areas would be prepared to make a contribution.
- 4.2 On the fourth area, Optivo had previously agreed with RDC that they would put pavers back in the area outside Old Rectory Court as part of their development. However this was not included within the Section 106 agreement. To date these works have not been carried out and I have been advised by the Site Manager that these are not within his programme. I am taking this up with Optivo and have asked RDC to also contact them.

5. Provision of Pavers

- 5.1 The correct type of pavers which match the high street are difficult to obtain so we have advised the two local reclamation yards that we would be interested in any they are able to acquire. Authentic Reclamation in Ticehurst provided the ones we needed for the Kipling statue and I am currently storing the balance of these totalling around 120 pavers. They have now contacted me to advise that they have recently taking stock of 200 pavers. They will sell these at £1.25p (+ VAT) per paver. I have asked that they put these aside pending a decision at this Parish Council meeting. These will give us a head start on the replacement programme.

6. Matter for resolution

- 6.1 To agree to obtain the pavers from Authentic Reclamation totalling £250 plus VAT from the 2019/20 budget.
- 6.2 Cllr Moore to report back on the meeting with ESCC at the December Parish Council meeting.