

Agenda item no.16	
Report to	Burwash Parish Council
Subject	Proposal to identify and work on areas of neglect in the Parish
Date	11 th June 2019
From	Cllr Moore

1. Summary

- 1.1 As part of the Rolling programme, we are looking to make Burwash more attractive to visitors. It has already been recognised that increased footfall is essential for the existing shops and businesses to survive in what are the most challenging of conditions.
- 1.2 The Kipling project is helping to provide additional encouragement for visitors to visit Burwash and the provision of the Tourist Maps later this month will provide further reason to make the trip and enhance their visit. However, tourists rightly expect high quality and we need to start to look at the Parish generally and particularly the High Street to ensure that the high standards which are provided by the vast majority of building owners are provided by all.

2. Proposed action plan

- 2.1 The proposed programme in this report looks at three areas:

- **to encourage owners of poorly maintained properties or neglected buildings to carry out works.**

This relates to buildings such as the Barn at the Rose & Crown which has been left to rot for at least three years since the roof collapsed, Oakleys garage which is still unsold but a significant eyesore on our historic High Street and the former Ashwood nursing home on the corner of Stonegate Road/A265 which is for sale but empty and increasingly run down.

- **the identification of land boundaries which need maintenance**

One of the key features for residents and visitors alike is the far reaching views across the High Weald AONB. However some land owners are failing to maintain their boundaries and hedgerows are getting increasingly higher, resulting in loss of views. In one recent instance this was used within a planning application as a reason not to refuse the application as they stated that "the view was not being lost as there was no view".

- **the improvement of existing facilities**

This work centres on two main aspects, firstly, the refurbishment of the two public car parks in the village along with the public toilets. Secondly, the improvement of the brick pavers, including replacing the current areas where tarmac has been put down to fully reinstate these pavers throughout the conservation area. This will be necessary before the proposed application Listing of the pavements is made..

- 2.2 The initial phases of this project will be to encourage and support land and building owners to carry out the remedial works required, however, where this is not

forthcoming the Parish Council will, subject to case specific approval, look to the various statutory agencies and press them to take enforcement action.

2.3 This project cuts across the following Rolling Programme Sub Groups:

Community & Communications – Parish promotion plan for tourism & businesses

Environment & Maintenance – Parish maintenance and seeking listed building status for the village pavers

Traffic & Transport – Car Parks

3. Matters for resolution

3.1 For the initial phase of this project

This report seeks approval to

- a. write to the owners of Ashwood House, the Rose and Crown and Oakleys Garage to seek proposals for urgent remedial works.
- b. compile a list of owners of other buildings which require attention and a list of land owners with boundaries which need maintenance and seek specific Parish Council approval to also write to them.
- c. Open discussions with East Sussex County Council concerning replacement of the tarmac areas and improvements to the brick pavers.