

FULL COUNCIL JUNE 2025 – ITEM 22. BUSINESS PLAN PROGRESS

The council resolved its Business Plan Objectives for years 1,2 and 3 in September 2024

Progress on Business Plan Objectives

Resurface play areas

Thank you to Cllr Billings and Cllr Brockhurst for removing the herras fencing to allow the Village Hall car park white lines to be repainted.

Cllr Billings and the Clerk approved the work on both roundabouts.

The project has been completed to a high standard.

The invoice matched the purchase order.

PROJECT COMPLETED

Cuckoo Trail Enhancements

£15,000 has been set aside for enhancements.

There is a separate item on the agenda to consider the two possible proposals that WDC have put forward to the parish council.

Awaiting a response from WDC regarding the arrangements for a meeting between both parties.

PROJECT ONGOING

Website

The website went live on Tuesday 25th March.

PROJECT COMPLETED

Landscape Sensitivity Assessment & Biodiversity Assessment

Update received on the 6th June:

“Thank you for your email. We are currently drafting our comments on the documents and how our observations will affect the Opportunities and Constraints drawing. We would envisage issuing these for comment within the next two weeks”.

PROJECT ONGOING

Emergency Plan

Once the Full Council RESOLVE the EP it will then be sent to WDC for verification.

The first draft is a separate agenda item.

PROJECT ONGOING

Oil all pc benches

Cllr Brockhurst informed the council at the January Full Council meeting that he would be oiling all the French oak benches once the moisture content allowed.

Cllr Brockhurst has also confirmed that he will be oiling all the benches in the parish as a long-term project.

The parish council play park contractor has oiled all the picnic benches and seats within the play areas.

PROJECT ONGOING

Repainting bus stop and bench in the high street

Cllr Brockhurst has checked them and said rubbing down wouldn't work. Hilary to contact Agrifactors to get a quote for repainting them. Cllr Brockhurst stated it might **not** be possible to paint on top of powder coated paint, but it would be very expensive to start from the beginning.

Hilary is still waiting to receive a quote from Agrifactors for the work.

Hilary has contacted a glazier regarding replacing the glass.

PROJECT ONGOING

Monitor the culverts

The monitoring table of culverts has been updated.

If you are a culvert monitor please check on the Culvert Table that your monitoring is up-to-date for the June meeting.

PROJECT ONGOING

Stiles

Resolved at March 2025 Full Council to set up an ear marked reserve for £6,000 so the council can begin work on this project.

Work on stiles will be stalled until the Year End process has been completed.

- (a) To **Resolve** the Finance Committee recommendation for a virement to move £6,000 from EMR 393 CIL 2020/21 to EMR 356 Business Plan for possible repair work to stiles subject to consultation with ESCC Rights of Way and the landowners.

Discussion at the Annual Meeting on how to move this project on. Possibly agree on one route to concentrate on.

Thank you to ESCC Cllr Bob Bowdler who has helped the Clerk get in contact with the ESCC Team Manager, Rights of Way & Countryside.

"It's great to hear that you have some funding to help maintain the path network in your Parish.

As a starting point, can I suggest that we have an initial meeting to discuss the plans you might have and how my team could be involved? I'd also like to invite Matt Harper, Principal Rights of Way Officer (copied in) to that meeting."

The Clerk will be arranging a face-to-face meeting at the ESCC Heathfield Depot with a small group of councillors.

Cllr Billings has prepared some suggested agenda items:

- Landowner vs ESCC responsibilities
- What will £6k buy/do?
- Matched funding from ESCC? Cash or kind
- Landowner £££ how to get them to pay their bit?
- Do Ramblers Association fit into the picture anywhere? If so how so?
- Repair broken vs replace with disabled accessible?
- signage?
- Identify Horam footpath 'highways' (Well used, connect Parish parts) and 'byways' (less well used, less connecting)
- Do ESCC have condition reports for all stiles? If so can we see them in the for the 'highways'
- Identify likely priority areas so get maximum bang for the buck

- Who/how prepares action plan and costings?
- if HPC initiate a new path on their land what do we have to do to get it as PROW? How long?

PROJECT COMMENCED

Project – Road signs and foliage

I have emailed the A267 Road Safety Group to state the parish council would not support any of their members cleaning road signs unless this has been agreed by ESCC.

I have received information from ESCC regarding the above which has been circulated separately.

I have contacted the A267 Road Safety Group before Christmas regarding the possibility of the pc giving the roadside cleaning group a grant if the relevant documents could be provided.

I have still not heard back from the A267 Road Safety Group.

Resolved at March 2025 Full Council to set up an ear marked reserve for £1,000 if the A267 Road Safety Group make contact.

- (a) To **Resolve** the Finance Committee recommendation for a virement to move £1,000 from EMR 393 CIL 2020/21 to EMR 356 Business Plan for funds in case of a grant request from the A267 Road Safety Group; by request only

Hilary has contacted A267 to make them aware of the resolution and to see if there is an appetite for this as a project moving forward. They have been made aware that any contractor used would need to have a licence to work on the highway and public liability insurance which the pc would need to see all docs. And they would need to submit a grant application.

PROJECT STALLED CLERK NEEDS MORE TIME TO READ THROUGH ALL DOCUMENTATION RECEIVED

Aspirations

Land for community use

The council resolved at December 2024 Full Council that donated land would be accepted dependent on conditions.

The council is being kept up-to-date with news on Devolution and possible land opportunities.

The item is on the June Full Council agenda

PROJECT ONGOING

Youth Club

The Chapel has been preliminarily assessed on the 23rd May by ESCC as a promising location for a youth club.

The Clerk and Cllr Howells will continue to work with ESCC and the Chapel to move the project forward.

ESCC have suggested September as a possible month for opening.

The Clerk or Cllr Howells will be the council representative at the next Heathfield Partnership Trust meeting, to investigate the details of the transport fund.

PROJECT ONGOING

Cycle paths, Allotments & Cemetery

No progress to date.