

ENVIRONMENT AGENDA DOCUMENTATION

TO REVIEW THE CUTTING OF RUSHLAKE GREEN VILLAGE GREEN

I received the following comments from a member of the public:

Could the subject of grass cutting on the Green be floated again? The recent scalping is a great shame, aesthetically and practically. With this very warm weather and the very dry spring, we are now likely to have a Village Yellow! Also, the bees and insects were robbed of a meal! (Clovers, Trefoil and Self Heal). Biodiversity is essential for life, including ours!

TO REVIEW THE ESCC VERGE TRIAL

Cllr Thompson to verbally update at the meeting.

ESCC started the rural grass cutting trial in 2021 and it was reported to be favourably received.

The original trial reduced the grass cutting service of rural verges in those areas to:

- One visibility cut undertaken around May/June
- One 1 metre Swathe with Visibility cuts in the Autumn

The change meant that they would not cut rural verges (except for visibility) at a time when flowering is often at its peak and it is the most beneficial time for pollinators. Flowering plants would then be able to complete their lifecycles and set seed, providing further biodiversity benefits. Safety issues remained their priority, with any visibility or access issues being picked up and rectified through the usual process.

ESCC ran the grass cutting trial for a second year and WPC opted **IN** to the trial. At the moment the trial is mid-way through.

The reasons for the second trial were to:

- Make some operational adjustments to how the work is managed based on lessons learnt
- Increase the evidence base
- Run a second trial for another, hopefully more typical, season.

ESCC stated if the trial is deemed a success there is potential for ESCC to make a full policy change in which this approach to maintaining rural verges is rolled out across the County.

But if the decision is made to stay with the current practise, then of course any trial areas will return to the standard rural maintenance schedule.

This is why it is important for ESCC to receive feedback throughout the trial to help decide on next steps after it has finished.

TO NOTE THE INFRASTRUCTURE BUDGET FOR REPAIR WORK

£2000 from the 2022/23 year.

£1,140 from the 2021/22 year in an ear marked reserve.

FULL COUNCIL UPDATE

At the Full Council meeting it was agreed I would be allowed an extra 30 hours to work on the following list of 6 items in priority order:

1. Clock service
2. Car park re-surface
3. Refurbishment of notice board
4. Analysis of traffic surveys and options e.g., Roundels
5. Picnic benches at Bodle Street Green
6. Emergency Plan

SLR

The SLR minutes were only circulated yesterday. Corinne has confirmed receipt of the minutes, Ian Johnson is on annual leave until the beginning of August.

I did receive an update from Highways in the middle of May which reported on the following:

Councillors are not given priority when reporting issues to Highways.

Regarding non-compliance of road work signage, please report any issues to Highways with photographic documentation.

The Iwood Dip works are now booked in for the 5-9th September.

I have requested Corinne arrange a meeting between Andy and the Highways steward to physically look at the hedges which Highways claim have been cut back.

Missing Bodle Street Green sign should be being replaced in the next few weeks.

The hedges on the s-bends before you reach Cowbeech have been inspected and do need to be cut back. Highways have written to the owners.

Highways have confirmed that the vegetation outside Little Redpale Barn will be cut back within the next 28 days. Reported by Cllr Thompson.

I have yet to action any of my points from the meeting.

TO CONSIDER THE IDEA OF ROUNDELS FOR RUSHLAKE GREEN & BODLE STREET GREEN

It would be my recommendation that during the meeting I have yet to organise with Ian Johnson, where I will ensure a thorough understanding of the speed survey

results, I will find out the cost details of the above before the council consider the item. I would also contact Jo Tucker at WDC on the advice of Ian Johnson.

It should be noted the PC would need to agree how many roundels they would like and their proposed location.

Thank you to Steve for analysing the data again and clarifying the PC's concerns.

TO CONSIDER THE IDEA OF A MOBILE SPEED INDICATION DEVICE

Please read the briefing document on speed indication devices from Surrey and Sussex Policing Together.

Stephen O'Connell, who wrote the report, recommended going for a movable rather than a fixed position SID as people get used to it being in one place. There is a choice of different SIDs and for a town he advised that one with a smiley or sad face works well and in a rural area he advised going above the speed limit and need to slow down works well.

The PC would need a solar powered one that costs approx. £2.5k (the clerks forum confirmed this price) you can attach it to street furniture i.e., street lamps but the PC would need permission from ESCC or you can install your own poles (again need permission & pay costs for licences). I have heard from other parishes the licences are expensive and not quick to obtain.

Stephen O'Connell recommended 2 companies:

Westcotec – smaller and lighter and also include brackets and solar panels. Sales contact Will Spinks
CA Traffic – bit bulky and expensive

ASSET REGISTER

I have not had the time to update the asset register as a result of the asset register check earlier in the year which was completed by Cllr Long, Wells, Thompson and myself.

However, the Ian Price memorial gate, at the side of the Dunn Village Hall was identified as a non-urgent item in need of attention. The PC may want to consider a normal gate rather than a kissing gate.

The phone box at Punnett's Town will need to be repainted possibly next year.

The Peter Croft memorial fencing needs attention. There is a missing top rail, a wobbly rail and a damaged sign. The PC do not actually own it but have taken responsibility for its maintenance.

The notice board at Bodle Street Green village hall needs to be oiled.

The David Bysouth bench needs to be oiled.

OSBORNE HOUSE CLOCK QUOTATIONS

The quotes have been circulated separately.

OSBORNE HOUSE CAR PARK REPAIRS

This item will need to be deferred as I am still waiting for 2 quotes.

Nicolls Brothers have quoted for the work.

This is one of my new 6 priorities.

RUSHLAKE GREEN NOTICE BOARD REFURBISHMENT QUOTES

This is one of my new 6 priorities. This item will need to be deferred.

TO CONSIDER THE INSTALLATION OF A BIKE RACK FOR RUSHLAKE GREEN VILLAGE GREEN

Cllr Thompson to update.

BT/POLES / INFRASTRUCTURE ON PARISH COUNCIL LAND

This item will need to be reviewed at a later date as there is not enough Clerk time available.

NEW BENCHES FOR RUSHLAKE GREEN UPDATE

Cllr Long discussed this item at Full Council. It was agreed that CIL funds would be used to purchase two benches up to a maximum spend of £2,000 and £100 on delivery. The benches would be replaced like for like. They would not be bolted to the ground so installation costs would not be required.