



UCKFIELD TOWN COUNCIL

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Town Clerk – Holly Goring

Meeting of the **Environment and Leisure Committee** to be held on
Monday 14 June 2021 at 7.00pm
in the Weald Hall, Civic Centre, Uckfield

AGENDA

Under The Openness of Local Government Bodies Regulations 2014, members of the public are able to film or record during a committee meeting.

1.0. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Members and Officers are reminded to make any declarations of personal and/or prejudicial interests that they may have in relation to items on this Agenda. Should any Member consider that they require a dispensation in relation to any prejudicial interest that they may have, they are asked to make a written application to the Clerk well in advance of the meeting.

Notice should be given at this part of the meeting of any intended declaration. The nature of the interest should then be declared later at the commencement of the item or when the interest becomes apparent.

2.0. STATEMENTS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC ON MATTERS ON THE AGENDA AT THE CHAIRMAN'S DISCRETION

3.0. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

4.0. MINUTES

- 4.1. Minutes of the meeting of the Environment and Leisure Committee held on 4 May 2021
(Attached)
- 4.2. Action list – For information only
(Attached)
- 4.3. Project Monitoring List – for information only
(Attached)

5.0. FINANCE

- 5.1. To note bills paid
- 5.2. No income and expenditure reports are available due to year end processes.

6.0. ADMINISTRATION

- 6.1. To appoint members to the Allotment Working Group for 2021/22
(Attached)
- 6.2. To appoint members to Outside Bodies (Local Nature Reserve Supporter Group)
(Attached)

- 6.3 To receive clarification on the Town Council's proposals for the Allotment Competition and Calendar Competition for 2022
(Attached)

7.0. ENVIRONMENT

- 7.1. To note the current position of the Town Council's Estates
(Attached)
- 7.2. To consider a request to purchase land at Shepherd's Gate (New Barn Lane)
(Attached)
- 7.3. To consider a report on the boardwalk structure at West Park Local Nature Reserve
(Attached)
- 7.4. To receive an update on the Town Council's land at Bellbrook (Attached)

8.0. LEISURE

- 8.1 To receive an update on the sanitisation of the Town Council's play areas
(Attached)

9.0. REPORTS FROM WORKING GROUPS

- 9.1. Climate Change Working Group
(Nothing to report at this time)

10.0. REPORTS FROM COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE ORGANISATIONS

- 10.1 Active Uckfield
- 10.2 Age Concern
- 10.3 All Weather Pitch Operational Group
- 10.4 Conservators of Ashdown Forest
- 10.5 West Park LNR and Hempstead Meadows LNR – Supporters Group
- 10.6 Luxford Centre Management Committee
- 10.7 Uckfield and District Twinning Association
- 10.8 Uckfield Festival Association
- 10.9 Uckfield Parkrun Board
- 10.10 Uckfield Railway Line Parishes Committee (Attached)
- 10.11 Uckfield Youth Club Board
- 10.12 Wealden Bus Alliance/Weald Link

11.0. CHAIRMANS ANNOUNCEMENTS

12.0. CONFIDENTIAL BUSINESS

To consider whether to **RESOLVE** to exclude the press and public (pursuant to the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960) during consideration of the following confidential business to be conducted: -

- 12.1. To consider a report on the Marketing programme
(Attached)
- 12.2. Initial discussion on the consideration of future initiatives under Environment & Leisure Committee



Town Clerk
8 June 2021

UCKFIELD TOWN COUNCIL



Minutes of the meeting of the **Environment and Leisure Committee** held on
Tuesday 4th May 2021 at 7.00pm

REMOTE MEETING (VIA ZOOM)

PRESENT:

Cllr. J. Beesley (Chairman)	Cllr. D. French
Cllr. K. Bedwell	Cllr. B. Cox
Cllr. J. Edwards	Cllr. S. Mayhew
Cllr. A. Smith	

IN ATTENDANCE:

One member of the press (recorded meeting)
Two members of the public
Councillor C. Macve
Councillor P. Sparks

Holly Goring – Town Clerk
Sarah D’Allesio – RFO & Assistant Town Clerk
Mark Francis - Estates & Facilities Manager
Rachel Newton – Senior Administration Officer
Minutes taken by Rachel Newton

1.0. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Members and officers were reminded to make any declarations of personal and/or prejudicial interests that they may have in relation to items on the agenda. No declarations of interest were announced.

2.0. STATEMENTS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC ON MATTERS ON THE AGENDA AT THE CHAIRMAN’S DISCRETION

A local resident and allotment tenant had requested to speak in relation to item 7.2 on the agenda for regarding allotment demand and understanding the legislation.

EL.42.05.21 It was **RESOLVED** to suspend standing orders to enable the resident to speak.

Since the notification to allotment holders of the changes to the structure of the allotment fees and charges from April 2022, although it was understood that this was necessary to meet the Town Council costs, he asked if members could take another look at maybe phasing in or out any increases or discounts. He personally had no particular objection to the discount being reduced or removed but wished to state on behalf of tenants who had an allotment for over ten years that they would naturally be concerned about the changes. Also, in relation to item 7.2 on the agenda, he mentioned that there had been a part of the

Ridgewood Recreation Grounds that had been taken back as green space during the 1990s, and asked if this could be re-constituted back to allotment space.

Finally, the resident thanked the Chairman and Town Council for allowing members of the public to attend the online zoom meetings over the last year and said that they had been run extremely efficiently. The Chairman also thanked the resident for his contributions.

EL.43.05.21 It was **RESOLVED** to reinstate standing orders.

Another resident had also requested an invite to the meeting although they said that they were experiencing problems connecting to the internet, so the Clerk announced that she would be invited to attend the next meeting in June and would be contacted in the meantime with regards to any allotment updates.

3.0. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor G. Johnson and Councillor D. Bennett due to work commitments.

4.0. MINUTES

4.1. Minutes of the meeting of the Environment and Leisure Committee held on the 22nd March 2021

EL.44.05.21 It was **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the meeting of the Environment and Leisure Committee held on the 22nd March 2021 be taken as read, confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

4.2. Action list

Members considered the action list which had been previously circulated and agreed to remove the following items which had been completed:

EL22.10.20 – To consider a tree report from Uckfield Town Council's Ranger. Members had agreed for suitable areas to plant trees around Uckfield. Also, arrangements were in place for the Queen's mountain ash tree to be planted in Elizabeth Gardens as a commemorative event on 12 May 2021 at approximately 2:30pm. No further action.

EL38.03.21 – To review the contract for sanitization of play areas. Members had no further comments and it was confirmed that works would be completed as scheduled by end of June. No further action.

4.3. Project Monitoring List – For information only Members noted the report.

5.0. FINANCE

5.1. To note bills paid

Members noted the report.

5.2. To note the provisional Income and expenditure report for end of financial year 2020/21

Members noted the report.

6.0. ADMINISTRATION

6.1 To review plans to install a memorial bench at West Park Local Nature Reserve Members considered a report previously circulated for a memorial in West Park Nature Reserve, in memory of our late Countryside Ranger, Geoff Pollard. The

Estates and Facilities Manager had proposed an engraved Granite bench (which was selected as the preferred material due to its hard-wearing nature). With the funds raised from the Town Council's crowdfunding event – our virtual mission from Lands' End to John O Groat's – the bench could now be purchased. Councillor D. French proposed that this was a perfect choice and members agreed. Two potential locations had also been suggested by the Supporters Group on 15 April 2021 and members agreed that the preferred location to place the bench would be option 1: beneath an Oak Tree overlooking the rabbit field which would enable vehicle access and also thoughts of where Geoff would have liked the bench.

EL.45.05.21 Members noted the report and **RESOLVED** to:

(i) confirm that they were happy for the Estates and Facilities Manager to order the bench and locate it in the position of option 1: situated beneath an Oak Tree overlooking the rabbit field, within West Park Local Nature Reserve.

6.2 To decide on a theme for the calendar competition 2022

Councillor D. French suggested a theme for next calendar competition: 'My Uckfield.' This would add a bit of fun, with local residents being invited to capture and submit an image of what Uckfield means to them and to include a selfie in the photo if they preferred to give it a more personal touch. Councillor B. Cox added further that it could be made a campaign and promoted on social media as #myuckfield. Members liked this idea and also that it might also be a good opportunity for the Town Council to brief local primary schools and to ask if they would like to partake in an internal calendar competition and provide a winning photo of a group of friends, for example, to encourage something a little bit different rather than just the same pictures of landscapes. Councillor D. French proposed '# My Uckfield' with a little photo in the corner and an explanation as to why they had chosen that photo to add a bit of personality to the caption.

Councillor A. Smith suggested that Action in Real Sussex could also be asked if they would be able to promote the calendar event to encourage participation from a diverse range of groups in Uckfield.

The best snaps would be chosen by the newly appointed council members when the competition closed by the end of August.

EL.46.05.21 Members noted the report and **RESOLVED** to:

- (i) agree that the theme for the calendar competition 2022 would be '# My Uckfield' and that residents could include a selfie image of what Uckfield meant to them, and;
- (ii) brief all primary schools to ask if they wish to have an internal competition and to submit one winner to go through to the final, and;
- (iii) for the Town Council to arrange for the winner to choose where they would like to spend their voucher within Uckfield so that the retailer can be reimbursed from council funds.

7.0 ENVIRONMENT

7.1 To note the current position of the Town Council's Estates

Members noted the report. The Estates and Facilities Manager pointed out that since the Easter weekend the litter collections had been a lot busier and the Town Council had to increase collections from Victoria Pleasure Ground to two days a week since this had contained all the rubbish in town. This would be trialled to the end of June but may have to continue throughout the summer so members were informed that this would be over budget. The Chairman thanked

the Estates and Facilities Manager for this report and for all the work that has been carried out to try to sort out this problem.

A local resident joined the meeting at 19:31pm.

EL.47.05.21 It was **RESOLVED** to suspend standing orders to enable this resident to speak.

Unfortunately, the resident was still experiencing internet issues. Councillor J. Edwards asked if there would be any way for this resident to be given the opportunity to speak at another time during this meeting if they managed to get online, however, it did not appear that this would happen so members agreed the meeting had to continue at this stage and that the resident would be kept informed with a copy of the minutes.

EL.48.05.21 It was **RESOLVED** to reinstate standing orders.

7.2 To consider an allotment demand and understanding the legislation if there is demand

The Town Clerk advised members that there had been a number of issues that had arisen out of the recent allotment working group, not just solely about the fees and charges. Since the covid pandemic last spring, there had been a lot more requests for allotment space, with a longing to be in the open fresh air, so that had an impact, and there could be increasing interest, with future growth and development in the town. So, this had created a good opportunity to look at and explore options around town either by reviewing the option to change existing land to be designated as allotment land, or, to work with developers to see if there would be any opportunity for them to incorporate allotment land in their proposals.

The idea of establishing the working group would be to look at those aspects above and to review all residents comments that had been received over the last few weeks. Since the initial letter was sent out to allotment tenants with regards to changes in the fees and charges, there would still be quite a bit of work to be done within the remit of allotments – such as reviewing the tenancy agreement, and support for allotment holders.

Also, the Clerk also highlighted that there would be no point in appointing an allotment working group until the next meeting in June, since the members of the Environment and Leisure Committee might change at the Annual Statutory meeting of the Council on 24th May. Accordingly, the next Environment and Leisure meeting would be on 14th June 2021.

EL.49.05.21 Members noted the report and **RESOLVED** to:

- (i) re-establish the allotment working group at the next meeting of Environment & Leisure Committee on 14 June 2021, and;
- (ii) look at the issues and comments raised specifically about fees and charges and to explore options for allotment land in the future.

7.3 To consider an update on Community Speedwatch and review into speed reduction monitoring devices

The Town Clerk provided an update report regarding the purpose of the devices and options on the market that would be most cost effective for a parish or town council. The Town Clerk asked members to consider what they wanted such speed reduction devices to do. Roadside speed indicator devices were a form of behaviour change. Monitoring devices purely maintained details of speed. Although no details had been received from ES Highways with regard to potential locations, this report was just to ask whether members wished to look at either monitoring devices or behaviour change devices, or both for that matter.

There had been a sense given from feedback over the years to look at both, so methods were suggested by the Clerk. If they were to work with ES Highways, to request a one-off seven-day speed survey, members may have recalled that that this would cost £400 a time, but for a few at once, it would have included a discount. Alternatively, the Black Cat monitoring device was in the region of £2k to purchase and could be moved around the town, but obviously members would have to agree locations with ES Highways. So, there would be a benefit to having our own device.

With the portable speed indicator device, members had been sent the full spec in terms of one particular company - Westcotec as an appendix.. The figures had ranged from £2,600-3,200k so members would need to be clear about what they preferred as this would not be about a gimmick but to encourage behaviour change..

Councillor B. Cox agreed and said that being data led would be the most crucial part of Speedwatch and would obviously be safer to opt on the side of behavioural change, along with a social media campaign pushed all year round to get the message across.

Councillor A. Smith remarked that some areas had temporary speed cameras and warning signs that were permanent and come up on your satnav, so that when you drove through it would be more of a deterrent than actually having a speed camera, which could encourage behaviour change.

Councillor K. Bedwell said that the portable option was important to move around town and educate people about speed problems as well as collecting independent data that would be useful to show developers if required in planning applications.

Councillor S. Mayhew liked the combination of the potential speed camera and radar speed guns, which he said were successfully used by railway staff, to also monitor speeds.

Further consideration would still be required to decide from the portable indicator devices that were on offer and to decide how to carry out the data collection, as both were separate products.

EL.50.05.21 Members **RESOLVED to:**

- (i) note the report, and;
- (ii) agree to having a portable indicator device that could be moved around the town by the Community Speedwatch Team, with further information being circulated by the Town Clerk to obtain a final decision by email.

7.4 To note a brief update on electric car charging points
Members noted the report.

7.5 To consider a request from Manor Park & Hempstead Fields Residents' Association to obtain a licence to cultivate land at Brown's Lane (Brown's Lane Rockery)
Further written clarification had been provided by the Secretary of Manor Park and Hempstead Fields Residents' Association regarding their request for a licence. The Residents' Association wished to obtain a licence to plant up to five

cherry trees in a particular shape/design within the central section of the land owned by the Town Council and to maintain and care for the trees only; no other aspect of the land. The licence would be required therefore to supply, maintain and care for the trees planted. There would be no interest in the rest of the land.

Members were happy to note the report, however Councillor D. French pointed out that this consideration for a licence at Brown's Lane Rockery should be delayed until the allotment working group had considered all Town Council land for potential future allotment land. Councillor B. Cox seconded this proposal.

EL.51.05.21 Members **RESOLVED** to:

(i) note the report, and agreed to delay this request for a licence to cultivate land at Brown's Lane Rockery which would be discussed by members once the allotment working group had been re-established.

8.0 LEISURE

Nothing to report at this time.

9.0 REPORTS FROM WORKING GROUPS

9.1 Climate Change Working Group

Further to an initial meeting held by members on 16th March, Councillor A. Smith provided an update. Members had reconvened to discuss future proposals for a green forum and a carbon footprint survey which had been recommended to create a baseline for the Town Council to work from, to tackle climate issues, have a sound audit and to create an action plan on climate initiatives going forward.

The sum of £1,800 was proposed from the Climate Initiatives budget and members agreed for the scoping meeting forum to go ahead. The Chairman also thanked Councillor A. Smith and the group for their great work so far.

EL.52.05.21 Members **RESOLVED** to:

(i) note the report, and;
(ii) agree to £1,800 to be used from the Climate Initiatives budget for the carbon audit/carbon footprint survey, and enable an action plan to be created on climate initiatives going forward, and;
(iii) for work to proceed on establishing the green forum with an initial scoping meeting.

10.0 REPORTS FROM COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE ORGANISATIONS

10.1 Active Uckfield

Nothing to report at this time.

10.2 Age Concern

Nothing to report at this time.

10.3 West Park LNR and Hempstead Meadows LNR – Supporters Group

Nothing to report at this time.

10.4 Luxford Centre Management Committee

Nothing to report at this time.

10.5 Uckfield and District Twinning Association

Nothing to report at this time.

- 10.6 Uckfield Parkrun Board
Nothing to report at this time.
- 10.7 Uckfield Plastic Free Working Group
Nothing to report at this time.
- 10.8 Uckfield Railway Line Parishes Committee
Nothing to report at this time.
- 10.9 Uckfield Youth Club Board
Nothing to report at this time.
- 10.10 Wealden Bus Alliance/Weald Link
Nothing to report at this time.
- 10.11 All Weather Pitch Operational Group
Nothing to report at this time.

11.0 CHAIRMANS ANNOUNCEMENTS

Councillor J. Beesley thanked members and Town Council staff for their hard work over the last three years since he had been Chairman of the Environment and Leisure Committee, and that having online meetings over the last year had been interesting and fun. He also passed on his best wishes to his future successor.

12.0 CONFIDENTIAL BUSINESS

EL.53.05.21 It was **RESOLVED** that pursuant to Section 1 (2) of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, because of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted it was advisable in the public interest that the public be temporarily excluded and they were instructed to withdraw.

- 12.1 To consider a report on the Marketing programme
Members noted the report.

The meeting finished at 20:10pm

UCKFIELD TOWN COUNCIL

ACTION LIST - FOR INFORMATION ONLY

Environment and Leisure Committee

Please note no resolutions can be made from the action list and is for information only.

Resolution No.	Details	Date Raised	Action By	Date Complete
<u>EL.28.09.16</u>	<u>To consider revised byelaws for the Town Council's Local Nature Reserves (LNRs)</u> Members reviewed the amendments to the byelaws which still require Natural England and DEFRA's approval. It was RESOLVED to accept the revised byelaws.	05.09.16	HG	The Town Council has sealed and signed the byelaws. A public notice will be published soon to provide the public with an opportunity to view the byelaws, prior to their submission to the Secretary of State.
<u>EL.26.01.19</u>	It was RESOLVED that the Supporter Groups for both reserves be consulted with a view to shorten the byelaws in accordance with DEFRA's comments and report back to the Environment & Leisure committee.	28.01.19		
	<u>Harlands Farm Pond</u> The Ranger is to be asked for ideas to captivate children's interest whilst at the pond.	18.4.17	CW	These initiatives can be reviewed, by the new Ranger once they have settled in post.
	Harlands Farm Pond, VCT and Sussex Wildlife Trust are to be contacted to establish if they can assist with ideas etc. regarding children involvement in the pond.	30.4.18	CW	
<u>EL07.06.19</u>	<u>Historical plaques</u> It was RESOLVED in order to try and move the scheme forward, that this be advertised to the wider audience.	03.06.19	TA	At a previous meeting of Full Council, one member suggested involving Memories of Uckfield in this initiative, to help build up interest. This initiative has now been on this action list for some time. Members need to decide if they wish it to remain.

Resolution No.	Details	Date Raised	Action By	Date Complete
<u>EL.43.01.20</u>	<u>7.2 To receive an update on the ecological report on the Town Council's Land at Bellbrook</u> Members RESOLVED to: (i) note the report; (ii) investigate the costs involved of installing an otter holt at the base of the riverbank of Bellbrook open space; (iii) rename Bellbrook open space to 'Riverside Wood' to give it an identity.	06.01.20	MF/HG	Work is in progress to explore these matters. Town Council Solicitors have been asked to arrange an update with land registry. In the meantime a report has been produced for 14.06.21 with an update.
<u>EL.51.02.20</u>	<u>7.3 To consider the support the Town Council can provide to the Uckfield Community Fridge Campaign</u> Members RESOLVED to: (i) Note the report, and; (ii) request that staff organise a visit to the community fridge schemes in Forest Row and Brighton.	17.02.20	HG/Amy/Coral	An update report was presented to GP Committee on 1 June 2021. This action has been superseded by this. NFA.
<u>EL.60.05.20</u>	<u>7.3 To consider a suggestion by Councillor D. French re: ancient trees to be felled at Mallards Drive</u> Members RESOLVED for all Councillors' suggestions be put forward to developers to cover costs of producing something from the wood which would be useful the community, using a local crafts person.	04.02.20	MF/RN	Suggestions put forward include: donation to Tree for Tree scheme, bench or seat for Harlands School, or remembrance/memorial bench and in meantime, request for Cllrs to come up with own ideas and/or put out to the public. Town Clerk to chase developers.
<u>EL.03.06.20</u>	<u>7.1 To note the current position of the Town Council's Estates</u> <u>The Town Council had been offered a gingko tree from a resident who knew Councillor C. Macve; an 8-foot tall non-native tree</u> Members agreed for the Estates and Facilities Manager to liaise with Councillor A. Smith for further guidance on the best area to place the ginkgo tree.	15.06.20	MF	The resident wished to hold on to the tree until the Autumn, as it would be better to plant before the frost sets in.

Resolution No.	Details	Date Raised	Action By	Date Complete
<u>EL.08.07.20</u>	<u>6.1 To consider suggestions put forward for a memorial in West Park Nature Reserve</u> Members noted the report and agreed for the Estates and Facilities Manager to liaise with the Groundsmen and make a decision from thereon for the best ideas for a memorial.	27.07.20	HG/RN	A decision was taken by E&L Committee on 4 May 2021 and has been actioned accordingly. NFA.
<u>EL.09.07.20</u>	<u>7.1 – To consider the current position of the Town Council's estates</u> The Estates and Facilities Manager spoke about the recent shortage of football pitches since lots of groups had increasing numbers of players and there were not enough pitches. Agree for the Estates and Facilities Manager to explore the various options available in terms of increasing the Town Council's sports grounds.	27.07.20	MF	Two football pitches have been installed at Harlands, one for adults and the other slightly smaller (goal posts to accommodate different size pitches). Discussions are ongoing through the Infrastructure Working Group.
<u>EL.11.07.20</u>	<u>7.3 To consider installing electric charging points at the council buildings</u> Members noted the report and discussed various areas for charging points and agreed for the Estates and Facilities Manager to look in to liaising with Wealden DC and proposals for installation of electric car parking points at various sites.	27.07.20	MF	An update was submitted at the committee meeting on 04.05.21.
<u>EL.18.09.20</u>	<u>7.3 To consider - Sharing boxes idea from local resident</u> This idea was submitted on behalf of a local resident by a council member who wished to add that this idea would be down to residents to design, implement and deliver with one person to look after a sharing box each. Councillors would decide on the best places to put them. Various suggestions were given at the meeting, one being to approach community groups such as the Men's Shed to make them or the Lions Club to monitor and maybe propagate a little bit of advertising at the same time. One member mentioned that this was raised in a previous meeting maybe last year and asked for the Senior Administration Officer to look at previous minutes to see if there was any action taken.	07.09.20	RN	The Senior Administrative Officer has spoken with the publisher of the Uckfield Allotments Association Newspaper to ask if anyone would like to take on this initiative.

Resolution No.	Details	Date Raised	Action By	Date Complete
<u>EL27.11.20</u>	<u>7.3 To note the current position with the Town Council's Grounds vehicles</u> Members agree to go down the fully electric route and for a Gator type vehicle and requested an update on what was currently available on the UK market at the next E&L meeting.	16.11.20	RN	Work on this will be halted until the Carbon Footprint audit tool has been utilised and a full assessment has been undertaken on the areas the Town Council needs to focus on as a priority.
<u>EL36.03.21</u>	<u>6.1 To consider an opportunity to light the Town's beacon – TRBL Centenary</u> Members noted the report and agreed that Uckfield Town Council wished to participate in the TRBL Centenary anniversary on Saturday 28 th August 2021 by lighting the beacon in Uckfield, and; two members were nominated (Councillors K. Bedwell and B. Cox) from within the Town Council to assist with organising the beacon lighting.	22.03.21	RN	Members have been identified and the Town Clerk has contacted them to arrange an initial planning meeting. Contact has also been made with the British Legion to understand what they'd like to see.
<u>EL.37.03.21</u>	<u>7.2 To consider an update on Community Speedwatch and review into speed reduction monitoring devices (Black Cat)</u> Members noted the report and the work undertaken to date and confirmed that they were happy with the Bushnell Kitbox being purchased at a cost in the region of £500 from the 'speed reduction' earmarked reserves. Members also advised that they wished to proceed on exploring speed monitoring and Speed Indicator Display devices with the various companies suggested.	22.03.21	HG	The bushnell has been purchased and training undertaken with new recruits and refreshers for existing volunteers. Further work will follow with members to ascertain what would be the best device to purchase for the roadside. NFA.
<u>EL39.03.21</u>	<u>9.2 Allotments Working Group – review of fees and charges</u> The report stated that tenants would be given 12 months' notice on 31 st March 2021 of fees and charges changing to new format with a minimum fee of £45 based on plots under and up to 50m2. Any plots over this size to be charged £45 plus 30p/m2. All costs would be inclusive of water subject to availability. This also includes the removal of all discounts. The price increase would start from April 2022 as per notice period. Annual review each Oct.	22.03.21	MF/RN	This process has commenced with a letter being sent to all tenants on 1 April 2021 by email and in person. NFA.

Resolution No.	Details	Date Raised	Action By	Date Complete
<u>EL.46.05.21</u>	<p><u>To decide on a theme for the calendar competition 2022</u> Members noted the report and RESOLVED to:</p> <p>(i) agree that the theme for the calendar competition 2022 would be ‘# My Uckfield’ and that residents could include a selfie image of what Uckfield meant to them, and;</p> <p>(ii) brief all primary schools to ask if they wish to have an internal competition and to submit one winner to go through to the final, and;</p> <p>(iii) for the Town Council to arrange for the winner to choose where they would like to spend their voucher within Uckfield so that the retailer can be reimbursed from council funds.</p>	04.05.21	TA/HG/LL	This item has been brought back to E&L Committee for further clarification.
<u>EL.49.05.21</u>	<p><u>To consider an allotment demand and understanding the legislation if there is demand</u> Members noted the report and RESOLVED to:</p> <p>(i) re-establish the allotment working group at the next meeting of Environment & Leisure Committee on 14 June 2021, and;</p> <p>(ii) look at the issues and comments raised specifically about fees and charges and to explore options for allotment land in the future.</p>	04.05.21	RN/MF/ SD/HG	A new allotment working group will be appointed at the meeting of E&L Committee on 16 June 2021.
<u>EL.51.05.21</u>	<p><u>To consider a request from Manor Park & Hempstead Fields Residents’ Association to obtain a licence to cultivate land at Brown’s Lane (Brown’s Lane Rockery)</u> Members RESOLVED to:</p> <p>(i) note the report, and agreed to delay this request for a licence to cultivate land at Brown’s Lane Rockery which would be discussed by members once the allotment working group had been re-established.</p>	04.05.21		This item has to wait until members have been appointed to the allotment working group for 2021/22.

Resolution No.	Details	Date Raised	Action By	Date Complete
<u>EL.52.05.21</u>	<u>Climate Change Working Group</u> Members RESOLVED to: (i) note the report, and; (ii) agree to £1,800 to be used from the Climate Initiatives budget for the carbon audit/carbon footprint survey, and enable an action plan to be created on climate initiatives going forward, and; (iii) for work to proceed on establishing the green forum with an initial scoping meeting.	04.05.21		Work has commenced on the carbon footprint audit tool and the Green Partnership meeting has been arranged with interested parties for 22 June 2021. NFA.

**UCKFIELD TOWN COUNCIL
ENVIRONMENT & LEISURE COMMITTEE
PROJECT MONITORING FORM 2021/22**

Projects in 2020/21 Budget – Outstanding projects

The funding for the following two projects was agreed at Full Council on 12 April 2021 to be reallocated to install a Covid memorial (bench(es) and tree). Initial investigations were reported to members at the Annual Statutory meeting of the Council on 24 May 2021:

The Town Clerk confirmed that there were two projects from 2020/21 already closely aligned which had not yet been completed (memorial/art project - £1,500 and the bench at London Road £1,000).

FC.86.04.21 Based on the report and discussions that had taken place, members **RESOLVED** to request that staff explore the costings and potential location ideas for a tree and Covid memorial bench(es), and for the investigations to be reported back to Environment & Leisure Committee or Full Council.

FC18.05.21 Members **RESOLVED** to:
(i) note the report, and;
(ii) agreed to proceed with the first design but request that the Estates & Facilities Manager enquire as to whether the first design (East Grinstead) could be purchased but with a more rounded style of bench for comfort.

Project Name	Bench on London Road (by Southview Drive)		Project Number	53
<u>FC92.01.20</u>	£1,000	27.04.20	Work to commence once Covid-19 restrictions have eased.	

Project Name	Memorial Plaque/Art Project		Project Number	55
<u>FC92.01.20</u>	£1,500	27.04.20	Work to commence once Covid-19 restrictions have eased.	

**UCKFIELD TOWN COUNCIL
ENVIRONMENT & LEISURE COMMITTEE
PROJECT MONITORING FORM 2021/22**

Projects in 2021/22 Budget – New Initiatives

Project Name	New signage for play areas and recreation grounds		Project Number	56
<u>FC.64.01.21</u>	£1,600	18.01.21		
Project Name	Ridgewood Play Area patch resurfacing		Project Number	57
<u>FC.64.01.21</u>	£13,500	18.01.21		
Project Name	Green Projects plus £5,000 in earmarked reserves		Project Number	58
<u>FC.64.01.21</u>	£18,000	18.01.21		
Project Name	Replace boardwalk plus £21,470 in earmarked reserves		Project Number	59
<u>FC.64.01.21</u>	£5,000	18.01.21		
Project Name	Animal friendly bins – Victoria Pleasure Ground & Hempstead Rec		Project Number	60
<u>FC.64.01.21</u>	£1,000	18.01.21		
Project Name	ESCC Grass Cutting Contribution		Project Number	61
<u>FC.64.01.21</u>	£4,280	18.01.21	The invoice for 2021/22 has already been processed for the amount of £4,271.00 NFA	

UCKFIELD TOWN COUNCIL
ENVIRONMENT & LEISURE COMMITTEE
PROJECT MONITORING FORM 2021/22

Project Name	Speed reduction initiative (already have £3,700 in earmarked reserves)		Project Number	62
<u>FC.64.01.21</u>	Minus £500.36 (=£3,199.64)	08.05.21	<p>Starter kit 3 with the up to date speed monitoring device (bushnell) as recommended by Sussex Police has been purchased at a cost of £500.36 plus VAT as agreed by Environment & Leisure Committee on 22 March 2021. New recruits are currently being trained and registered on the system.</p> <p>Further correspondence will follow with Town Councillors to take a decision on what is purchased in terms of monitoring equipment and speed indicator devices at the roadside.</p>	

Project Name	Covid contingency fund for play area spraying (until end June 2021)		Project Number	63
<u>FC.64.01.21</u>	£2,500	18.01.21	<p>Spraying was undertaken at the end of April and May 2021. The next spray is due at the end of June 2021.</p>	

Project Name	Tree planting programme (plus carry forward of £700 from 2020/21 budget – now in earmarked reserves)		Project Number	64
<u>FC.64.01.21</u>	£1,000	18.01.21		

Meeting of the Environment and Leisure Committee

Monday 14 June 2021

Agenda Item 6.1

TO APPOINT MEMBERS TO THE ALLOTMENT WORKING GROUP FOR 2021/22

1.0 Overview

- 1.1 In line with a resolution from the meeting of Environment & Leisure Committee in October 2020, an allotment working group was set up early 2021 to look in more detail at the fees and charges for allotments, and associated terms and conditions and tenancy agreement.

EL20.10.20 Members RESOLVED to:

(i) note the report and;

(ii) agreed to increase the fees and charges for Sports facilities and allotments in 2021/22 by 1.5%

(iii) set up a working group to look in more detail at the fees and charges for allotments and possibly sports facilities, for October 2021 onwards for allotments (and 2022/23 for sports facilities) with Councillors K. Bedwell, B. Cox and S. Mayhew wishing to participate.

- 1.2 A working group was set up and their recommendations were presented within a report to Environment & Leisure Committee on 22 March 2021. This set to change the current charging structure for allotments from 1 April 2022.
- 1.3 A number of concerns have been raised by allotment holders with regard to the proposed changes in fees and charges. These concerns needed to be reviewed in detail.
- 1.4 At the meeting of Environment & Leisure Committee on 4 May 2021 members were also advised by the The Town Clerk that there had been a number of issues that had arisen out of the recent allotment working group, not just solely about the fees and charges. Since the covid pandemic last spring, there had been a lot more requests for allotment space, with a longing to be in the open fresh air, so that had an impact, and there could be increasing interest, with future growth and development in the town. So, this had created a good opportunity to look at and explore options around town either by reviewing the option to change existing land to be designated as allotment land, or, to work with developers to see if there would be any opportunity for them to incorporate allotment land in their proposals. This includes reviewing the land known as Brown's Lane Rockery following the enquiry received by the Manor Park & Hempstead Fields Residents' Association.

By establishing the working group members can look at those aspects above and review all residents' comments that had been received over the last few weeks. Since the initial letter was sent out to allotment tenants with regards to changes in the fees and charges, there would still be quite a bit of work to be carried out within the remit of allotments – such as reviewing the tenancy agreement, and considering how the Town Council could further support allotment holders.

EL.49.05.21 *Members noted the report and RESOLVED to:*
(i) re-establish the allotment working group at the next meeting of Environment & Leisure Committee on 14 June 2021, and;
(ii) look at the issues and comments raised specifically about fees and charges and to explore options for allotment land in the future.

1.5 Previous members of the Allotment Working Group were Councillors K. Bedwell, B. Cox and S. Mayhew.

2.0 Recommendation

2.1 Members are asked to appoint up to five, or no less than three, members of Environment & Leisure Committee to form an allotment working group to review the above matters.

Contact officers: Rachel Newton

Meeting of the Environment & Leisure Committee

Monday 14 June 2021

Agenda Item 6.2

REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE BODIES 2021-22

1.0. Outside Bodies

- 1.1. At the Annual Statutory meeting of Full Council on 24th May 2021 it was agreed that a representative (and substitute) for the L.N.R. Supporters Group would be appointed at the next Environment & Leisure Committee meeting.
- 1.2. The Clerk advises for two Council members who express an interest to be appointed representatives for West Park L.N.R. and the Hempstead Meadows L.N.R.

2.0. Recommendation

- 2.1 Members are required to appoint a representative (and substitute) to the Local Nature Reserve Supporter Groups.

Contact Officer: Rachel Newton

Meeting of the Environment & Leisure Committee

Monday 14 June 2021

Agenda Item 6.3

TO RECEIVE CLARIFICATION ON THE TOWN COUNCIL'S PROPOSALS FOR THE ALLOTMENT COMPETITION AND CALENDAR COMPETITION 2022

1.0 Allotment Competition

- 1.1 Due to the Covid restrictions in place earlier this year, planning for this year's event has been significantly delayed. This would normally begin in February and launched by May. However, our partner in this venture, Staverton's Nursery, have been preoccupied with reopening their garden centre and have been run off their feet so it would have been very difficult for them to assist with the competition this year. Town Council officials have similarly been stretched delivering core services during the pandemic.

(See Recommendations below)

2.0 Calendar Competition

- 2.1 At the previous Environment and Leisure Committee meeting on 4th May 2021 members were asked to decide on a theme for the 2022 Uckfield Town Council Photographic Calendar Competition:

EL.46.05.21 Members noted the report and RESOLVED to:

- (i) agree that the theme for the calendar competition 2022 would be 'My Uckfield' and that residents could include a selfie image of what Uckfield meant to them, and;*
(ii) brief all primary schools to ask if they wish to have an internal competition and to submit one winner to go through to the final, and;
(iii) for the Town Council to arrange for the winner to choose where they would like to spend their voucher within Uckfield so that the retailer can be reimbursed from council funds.

- 2.2 The competition was to be launched immediately once a decision had been made for the theme. However, further clarity is needed regarding the ways in which we go about opening up the calendar competition to primary schools as well as residents in the town? The closing date is traditionally at the end of August so members are asked to decide on the best marketing approach and ways to contact the schools and local residents in town to get this idea moving forward.

3.0 Recommendations

- 3.1 Members are asked for a decision on this years Allotment competition; and
3.2 Ideas on how to go about marketing the calendar competition to primary schools and local residents.

Contact Officers: Rachel Newton

Meeting of the Environment & Leisure Committee

Monday 14 June 2021

Agenda Item 7.1

TO NOTE THE CURRENT POSITION OF THE TOWN COUNCIL'S ESTATES

1.0 Summary

1.1 This report sets out the current position of the Town Council's Estates.

Pitch renovations carried out W/C 1st June 2021 - six pitches booked.

Victoria Pleasure Ground

Town bin collections have increased significantly since the Easter bank holiday, resulting in an additional collection to keep up with demand on a weekly basis. Temporary second additional collections have been booked until the end of July, this will increase the overall bin collection budget and would most likely be overspent by year end.

Victoria Skatepark

Investigation required in dealing with drainage issues, awaiting meeting with developers at Ridgewood.

Hempstead Lane Play Area

Slide now repaired.

Hempstead Meadows

Works are due to take place on the gravel footpath byway by ESCC, following the flood damage in December 2019.

ESCC Rights of Way have now advised they no longer have the budget this year to carry out the repairs and it is highly unlikely funding will be available in 2022/23. Contact has been made with the County Councillor to seek alternative options.

Rocks Park Play Area

Nothing new to report.

West Park Recreation ground

Nothing new to report.

Boothland Wood

Nothing new to report.

Equipment & Vehicles

Transit van repaired due to melted coil.

Street Furniture & Lighting

Covid-19 memorial bench research is underway in partnership with CPJ Field.

Ridgewood Recreation Ground

Nothing new to report.

Elizabeth Gardens

Nothing new to report.

Selby Meadows

Nothing new to report.

West Park Local Nature Reserve.

Reptile surveys are being carried out by the Ranger and supporter groups.

Luxfords field and play area.

Nothing new to report.

Trees

Following a programme of tree surveys across the town, it is becoming very evident that the Town Council is starting to have to deal with a number of trees with Ash die back. A further report will be presented to E&L Committee in the coming months.

2.0 Recommendations

2.1 Members are asked to note the report.

Contact Officers: Mark Francis

Meeting of the Environment and Leisure Committee

Monday 14 June 2021

Agenda Item 7.2

TO CONSIDER A REQUEST TO PURCHASE LAND AT SHEPHERD'S GATE (NEW BARN LANE)

1.0 Summary

- 1.1 This report details a request by the owners of 63, New Barn Lane to establish if the Town Council would be willing to sell a parcel of land behind their property so they can extend their garden.

2.0 Background

- 2.1 The land in question would be a part of a section of land named 'Shepherd's Gate' which is owned by Uckfield Town Council.
- 2.2 The full site can be seen in appendix A and was transferred to Uckfield Town Council by Bryant Homes Southern Ltd. In the transfer of land in 1995, it was stated that the land was not to be used for any other purpose than as public open space and no residential or commercial development is allowed. There are no tree preservation orders on the trees contained on this land.

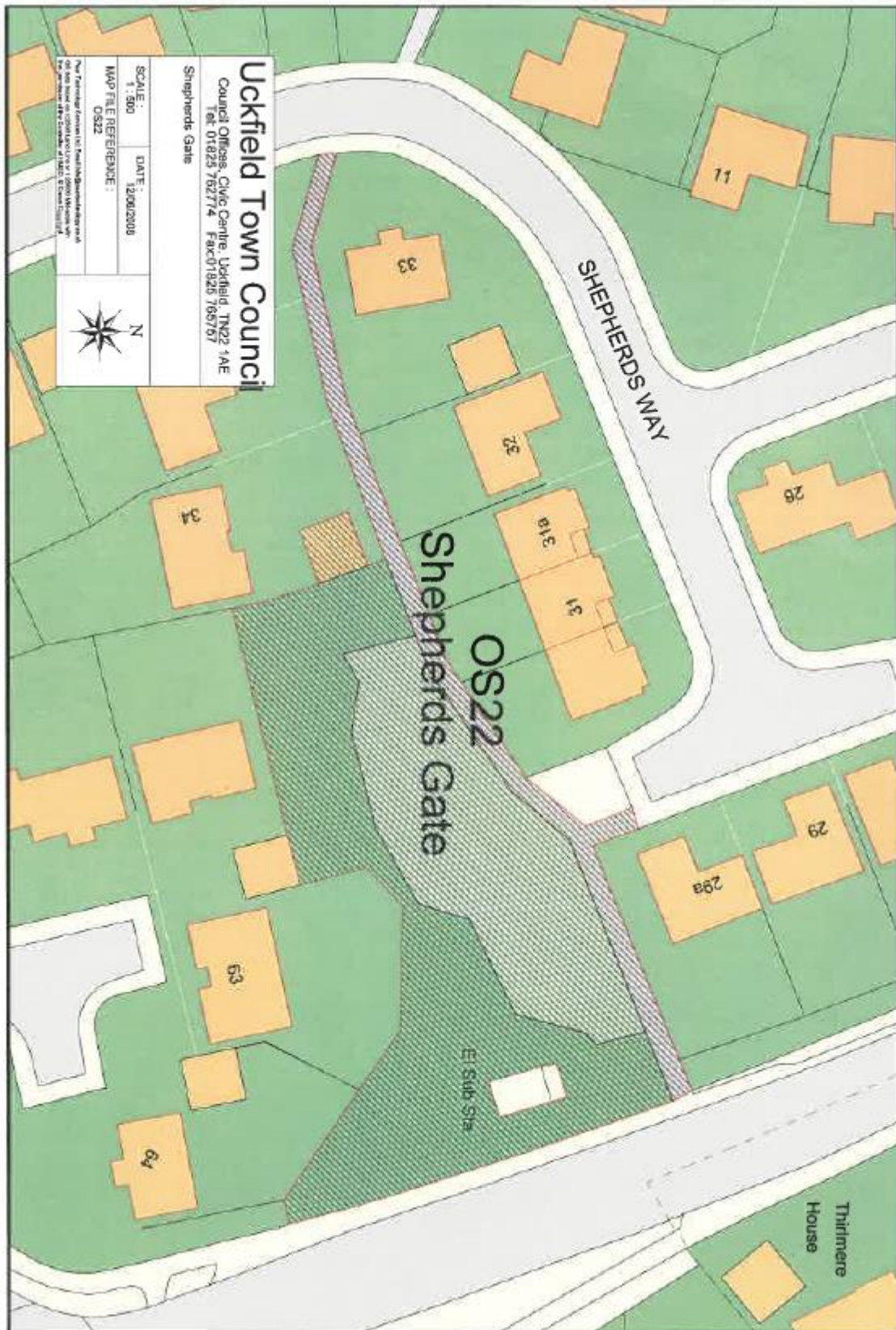
3.0 Issues

- 3.1 As a result of the above, and potential covenants in place on the use of the land, a legal opinion would need to be sought as to whether these could be lifted and the land sold.
- 3.2 The land would also have to be professionally valued.
- 3.3 Previous requests to purchase Town Council land have been turned down and it should be noted that if the Committee agreed to sell this parcel of land it could set a precedent for other home owners to make similar requests.

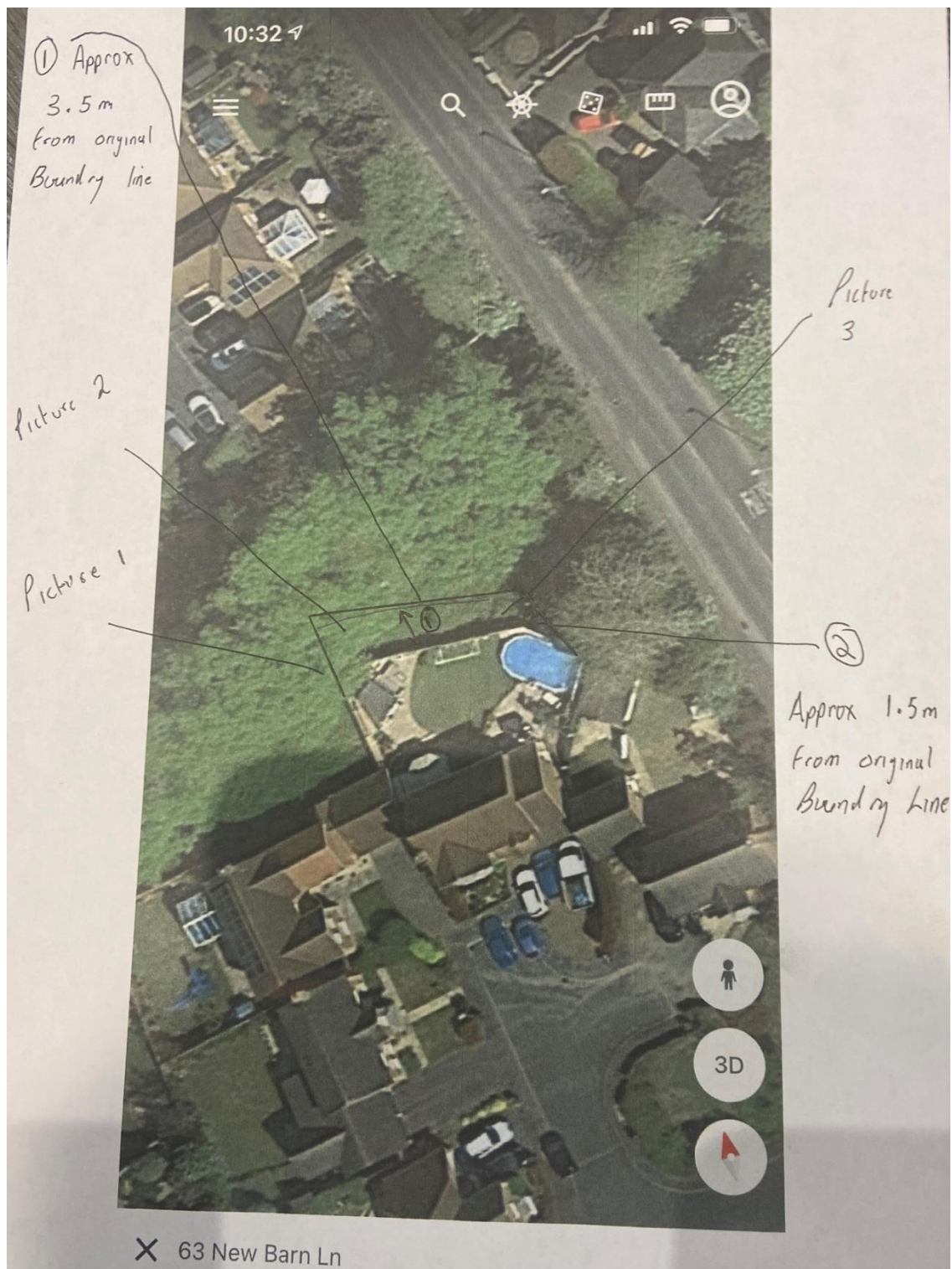
4.0 Recommendation

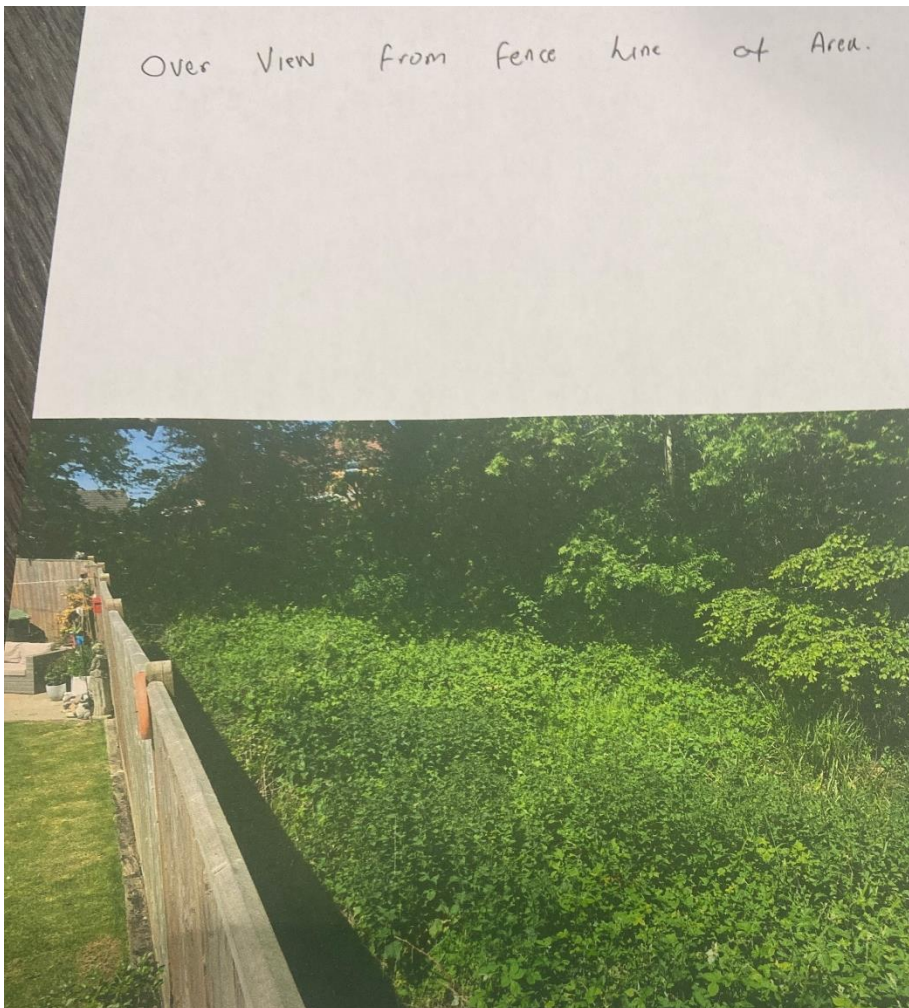
- 4.1 Members are asked to consider the report and instruct the Clerk accordingly.

APPENDIX A – SHEPHERD'S GATE
Land owned by Uckfield Town Council



APPENDIX B – REQUEST FROM RESIDENT

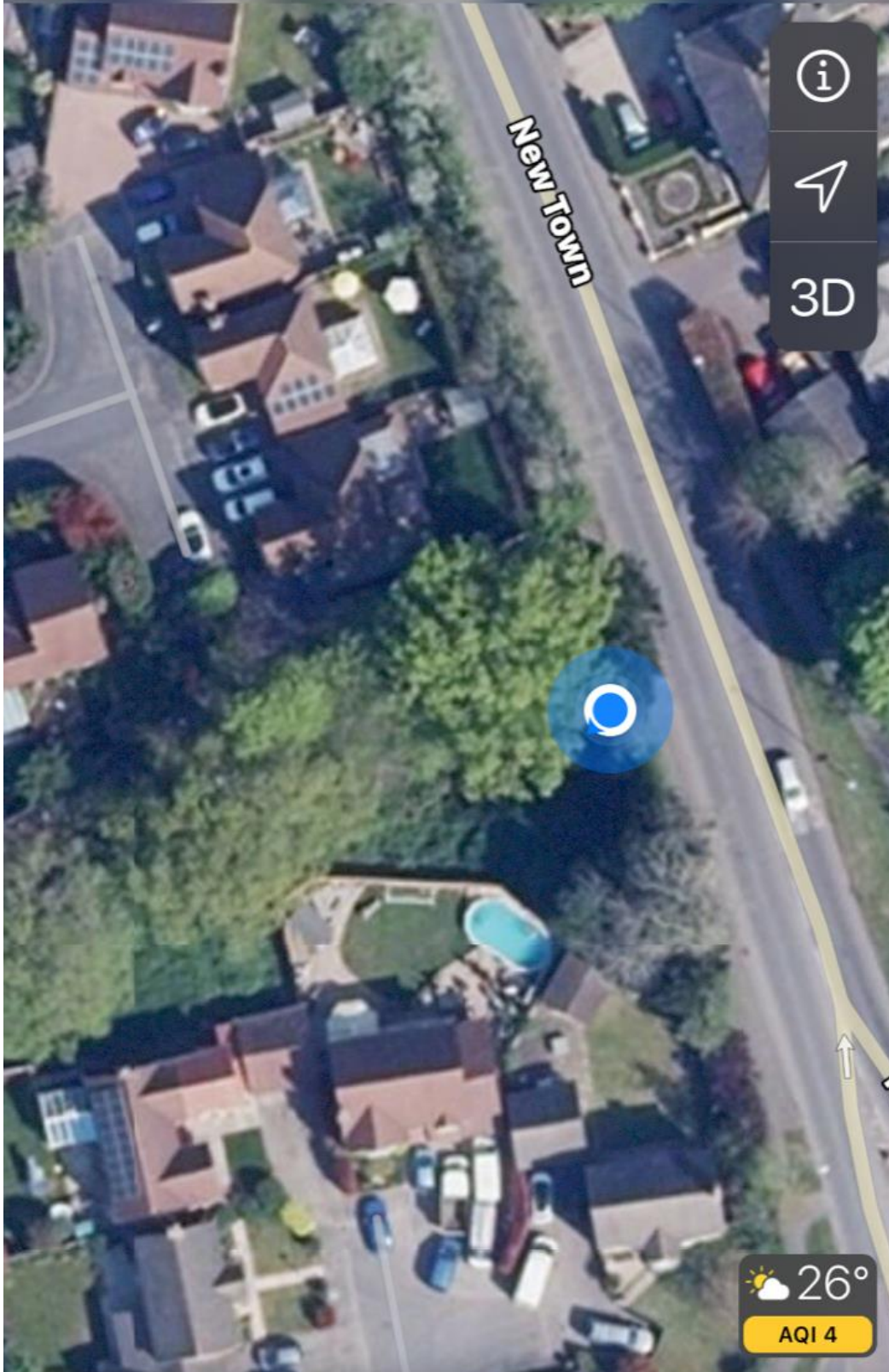




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Meeting of the Environment & Leisure Committee

Monday 14 June 2021

Agenda Item 7.3

TO CONSIDER A REPORT ON THE BOARDWALK AT WEST PARK LOCAL NATURE RESERVE

1.0 Background

- 1.1 A report was taken to the Environment and Leisure Committee on 15 October 2018 to propose a new initiative to replace the Boardwalk at West Park Local Nature Reserve due to costly ongoing maintenance by the Town Council's Ranger. Over consecutive years, officers have been allocating funds towards this project and now have a total of £26,470 in earmarked reserves for this project (see appendix A for the full report from October 2018).



2.0 Obtaining quotations for works

- 2.1 Four contractors were approached to quote to replace the Boardwalk with a solid, type 1 surface which is a similar design and in keeping with the right of way at Hempstead Meadows LNR and the SANGS.
- 2.2 The quotes received are as follows –
Contractor 1 - £14,990.40 + VAT
Contractor 2 - £28,410.84 + VAT
Contractor 3 - £24,600.00 + VAT
Contractor 4 – Not quoted
- 2.3 Members have been emailed a copy of the detailed quotations from those contractors listed above. It is suggested Contractor 3 would be the most suitable to carry out the works, based on processes and budget restraints, leaving any remaining budget for any contingency required.

3.0 Recommendations

- 3.1 Members are asked to note the report, and consider whether they approve for the works to go ahead with Contractor 3.

Contact Officers: Mark Francis

APPENDIX A

COPY OF REPORT PRESENTED TO E&L COMMITTEE ON 15 OCTOBER 2018

Agenda Item 5.3. To start considering new initiatives for the draft budget 2019/20

A report on the state of the boardwalk structure at West Park LNR

as of July 2018, by UTC Ranger Geoff Pollard.

At West Park Local Nature Reserve there is a boardwalk along the main central path that runs along the western side of the sheep field (Map attached). It was constructed in about 2002 by the East Sussex County Council Countryside Ranger service, who were responsible for managing the land at the time, in order to make public access easier along a stretch of path that has extensive wet areas, especially in the winter. Although the basic structure of the boardwalk is the same throughout it is not one continuous feature but is made up of three main sections of differing lay out with dry soil paths in between.



The original basic structure consists sawn, treated soft wood timbers dug into the ground and then bolted or nailed together to form a subframe that is covered with boards. The uprights on the eastern (sheep field) side are long so that they stand about 1.3 m above ground with a hand rail running from one on the next, whilst the ones opposite are short, hardly projecting above the ground, but form the foundation for the subframe to be attached to. The top of the boards are covered with a strip of closely stapled down chicken wire to provide a non-slip walking surface generally between about 10 cm and 30 cm above the ground on either side.

Section 1

The north eastern section is the biggest with a long curving main section; a long spur to the kissing gate at Saunders Close and a very short spur by the tall notice board for the path to Rocks Road. The length from the northern end to the long spur is 26 bays (post to post) or 52 metres plus a ramp at the start. The long spur is 13 bays or 26 metres plus a ramp down to the kissing gate. The section along side the sheep field is 13 bays and the very short spur is about 1.5 m long with no hand rail.

Section 2

The middle section is a relatively straight one of 17 bays or 34 metres without a ramp at either end and there is a spur north into the woods of 8 metres in length without a hand rail.

Section 3

The southern section is gently curving one of 28 bays or 56 metres with no ramps or spurs. Up until 3 years ago this was slightly longer at the very southern end with a double curved end that was breaking down so the decision was made to remove this part entirely. This is the only such part.



Since becoming the full time ranger in March 2015 I have undertaken a steady program of repair work to the boardwalk to keep it fit for purpose and safe. This follows several years when very little maintenance work was carried out due to the frequent changes in ranger staff. After more than twelve years the wood rots and splits and the netting corrodes. There have also been incidents of vandalism most recently over the weekend of the 30th of June and 1st of July 2018 when post and rail and boards were broken on the long spur from Saunders Close.

It should be noted that after several repairs in past 3 years the southern section has only needed one repair (to the subframe) so far this year (July 2018) and the middle section has not needed any repair work so far this year; although it is apparent that there are a few boards that will need replacing in the next few months in both parts. By far the most work has been needed on the longest, northern section with more work to be done. The deterioration of the southern end of this part (as it runs alongside the sheep field) has been apparent for several years with soil washed in underneath building up level with the

underside of the boards speeding up the rotting process. The boards and subframe are being replaced a bay at a time and the soil dug out so once done this should last for a few years.

When first constructed the chicken wire on the boards was a strip up the middle, held down with cardboard box staples but as sections of this have broken down it has been replaced by wider netting that overlaps the edges of the boards allowing more stapling with 20 mm round staples. This helps to hold the whole structure together even when damaged.



In the first year or so of maintenance much of the repair work involved replacing individual boards that have broken down. These are prised out once the netting has been peeled back and replaced before the netting is safely secured and usually several such could be done in a day on site. More recently it is evident that a few of the upright posts have rotted at about ground level and these have been replaced.





However, it has also become evident that certain parts of the subframe that the boards are nailed to have been rotting and need to be replaced. Any particular job needs to be done within one working day to leave the boardwalk safe for use overnight. The foundation timbers that are dug into the ground are held together just below ground level with bolts that after this length of time have become badly corroded and cannot be removed. This means that if these parts have rotted there is limited repair work that can be done to this to be able to have the structure fully restored and safely functioning by the end of the day. To date all repair projects have been completed within a working day but a time can be seen when there will need to be more than one repair on a given section that has already had this limited work done and thus the viability of that part of the structure will become untenable and should be replaced entirely.

As replacing a whole section would take several days it is most likely that a contractor would be brought in to do this.

The cost of replacing an entire section of the boardwalk is difficult to accurately determine but the following factors need to be taken into account.

What the specification of the new boardwalk would be. Is it to be made to the same design using the same materials in terms of dimensions and quality or should the materials be thicker to resist rot. For instance, the boards could be 20 mm thick instead of 15 mm.

It should be borne in mind that the present design means that each bay consists of

a long post 2000 mm long by 100 mm by 100 mm thick
with a notch in the top for the rail at about £4.50 each.

Two other foundation pieces (one horizontal and the other dug vertically into the ground) 1000 mm by 100 mm by 100mm **at about £££??**

3 subframe rails 4000 mm by 30 mm by 100mm at about £6.00 each.

10 boards each 3000 mm long by 1500 mm wide by 15 mm thick at about £4.40 each

Plus bolts (approx. 6 per bay) **at a cost of ??**

nails (6 per board) at a cost of about £11.00 per bucket **of about??**

and staples (approx. 14 per board) at a cost of £12.00 per bucket of about 2000

Before any work commences, almost all the wood should be cut to length from the longer materials supplied and any holes for bolts pre-drilled so that once the post holes are dug the fitting together of a bay is as straight forward as possible. The use of nail guns and chainsaws by a contractor is likely to speed up the process and thereby reduce labour costs.

Should the board walk be any longer or even shorter in places? For instance, the short spur into the wood from the middle section end on ground that is muddy in wet weather this should be extended by another 8 metres to finish on a section of the soil path that is almost always firm and dry.

There are several reasons why this should be done in dry summer weather. As the boardwalk is on ground that becomes very wet in wet weather the digging of the holes for the posts in wet conditions becomes untenable. Water continuously seeps in and the sides of the hole are liable to repeatedly collapse. Access would be a lot easier and the days are longer.

Who removes the old board walk us or the contractor and what happens to the removed materials? A clear site is much easier for the contractor to work on. There would be a need to determine if any safe alternative routes for walkers could be put in place whilst the original path is closed for the duration of the work.

The Council is also seeking advise from Wealden District Council on the construction method used for the boardwalk at the newly created SANGS.

Costings are still being obtained for the some of the above items, however it is suggested that the Environment & Leisure Committee puts aside some money in the budgets for replacing the boardwalk over a 2/3-year period.

Meeting of the Environment & Leisure Committee

Monday 14 June 2021

Agenda Item 7.4

TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE ON THE TOWN COUNCIL'S LAND AT BELLBROOK

1.0 Renaming the land

- 1.1 At the meeting of Environment & Leisure Committee on 6 January 2020, it was agreed to rename Bellbrook open space to "Riverside Wood" to give it an identity and to allow natural regeneration of woodland on the site.
- 1.2 It was previously thought that some may consider the land to be unmanaged or a waste land, and could potentially encourage fly tipping. Work is underway behind the scenes to get the land retitled with Land Registry.
- 1.3 In the meantime signage has recently been installed at the entrance to the site to advise of the ownership of the land, and of current plans.

2.0 Observations on visiting the site

- 2.1 On visiting the site, the Estates & Facilities Manager noted quite a large amount of ground works that had been carried out at the entrance beside the building adjacent. A new extended fence had also been installed.
- 2.2 The Estates & Facilities Manager liaised with the landlord of the building in May 2021 who advised that the ground works were moved back due to retaining wall damage and the fence had been extended to prevent fly tipping which is an issue in this area.



3.0 Recommendation

- 3.1 Members are asked to:
 - (i) note the report, and;
 - (ii) consider whether they approve of the works carried out by the adjacent landlord.

Contact Officers: Mark Francis

Meeting of the Environment and Leisure Committee

Monday 14 June 2021

Agenda Item 8.1

TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE ON THE SANITISATION OF THE TOWN COUNCIL'S PLAY AREAS

1.0 Background

- 1.1 During Covid-19 restrictions, the UK Government announced that on 4 July 2020, play areas could be reopened, but with the caveat that stringent cleaning regimes be put in place to ensure the safety of play area users. The government advised that children and parents must not interfere with closure measures where a playground remained closed, that social distancing should be maintained and if a playground was too busy, for users to wait or return later.
- 1.2 Since then, it was agreed by the Town Council in the appropriate committee meeting or Full Council to renew the contract every three months to continue spraying the play areas.

2.0 Review of sanitisation treatments

- 2.1 The company swab tests the play area surfaces before and after spraying, issuing a treatment certificate which provides 30 days protection of 99.998% of known bacteria, viruses and pathogens.
- 2.2 The treatments and findings have been added to this table below to show how effective the treatment has been at the play areas.

30th July 20							
Play area	Hughes Way	Victoria	Hempstead	Oakwood Drive	Ridgewood	Rocks Park	Luxfords Field
Swab test before spraying	1297	925	3160	1478	891	921	NA
Swab test after spraying	49	24	30	20	13	50	NA
28th August 20							
Play area	Hughes Way	Victoria	Hempstead	Oakwood Drive	Ridgewood	Rocks Park	Luxfords Field
Swab test before spraying	55	80	83	91	74	34	94
Swab test after spraying	19	17	8	7	10	6	9
Contamination risk of number of microbes found on surfaces							
Food safe	Low-mild risk	Low-mild risk	Caution	High risk	Extreme risk		
50 or below	Circa 100 or below	101-250	251-500	501-1000	Above 1000		
28th April 21							
Play area	Hughes Way	Victoria	Hempstead	Oakwood Drive	Ridgewood	Rocks Park	Luxfords Field
Swab test before spraying	72	74	65	70	52	67	55
Swab test after spraying	9	3	14	11	7	12	6
28th May 21							
Play area	Hughes Way	Victoria	Hempstead	Oakwood Drive	Ridgewood	Rocks Park	Luxfords Field
Swab test before spraying	63	49	57	62	51	41	88
Swab test after spraying	13	5	13	4	12	7	17

- 2.3 As you can see from the table above, the treatment has been very effective in reducing the number of microbes by a considerable amount at each play area.

3.0 Looking forward

- 3.1 With the UK government gradually easing restrictions with numbers of Covid-19 cases remaining low, the risk level is low with regards to spreading Covid-19 within a play area in an outdoor setting. Therefore, the current evidence suggests that it would be beneficial to suspend the spraying after 28th June 2021.
- 3.2 Should Covid-19 cases increase drastically or should we enter a new lockdown as advised by the UK Government, it would be sensible to bring this matter back to Environment & Leisure Committee to re-commence spraying on a monthly basis.
- 3.3 The final play area spray will take place on 28 June 2021. The Estates & Facilities Manager will monitor the situation regarding Covid-19 and will bring the item back to committee should the matter need to be reviewed.
- 3.4 Framfield Parish Council and Buxted Parish Council have worked in partnership with Uckfield TC throughout this process and may follow suit with the decision taken at this meeting.

4.0 Recommendation

- 4.1 In light of the current conditions, members are asked to consider the report and to agree to suspend further spraying after the 28th June 2021, with the potential for future consideration of this item in the autumn/winter months of 2021/22.

Contact officer: Mark Francis

Meeting of the Environment and Leisure Committee

Monday 14 June 2021

Agenda Item 10.10

REPORTS FROM OUTSIDE BODIES: UCKFIELD RAILWAY LINES PARISHES COMMITTEE

The Chairman welcomed members to what he hoped would be the last meeting on Zoom.

The works at Eridge Station in providing a passenger lift and other disability facilities was progressing well and was due for completion shortly.

Unfortunately, the negotiations with ESCC on disabled parking spaces had not yet produced any positive solutions. Other works being carried out from the GTR benefit fund including new toilets at Crowborough, seating and flower boxes at Buxted were on programme for completion.

With the relaxation of Covid restrictions and the re-introduction of the one-hourly service, this month's passenger numbers were now increasing.

Recent publicity regarding the Uckfield Line's future was discussed in detail but it was agreed there were still huge decisions needed. The third round of submissions on "Restoring your Railway" with the Department for Transport had been lodged but no announcement was expected until the summer.

With the UK Government's green agenda electrification of railways now fairly high on the list. However, third rail or overhead supply provision for our line had to be agreed, as would the possibility of double tracking. However, the next round of proposals was not due until 2024.

There has been no response from Councillor Turrell to attend the next meeting and further consultations on South Central radial proposals were ongoing, which would lead to the Strategic Investment Plan being published in 2022 for Transport for South East.

The next meeting would be held on 15 July 2021.

Councillor C. Macve

Recommendation

Members are asked to note the report.