

UCKFIELD TOWN COUNCIL



Minutes of the meeting of the Strengthening Local Relationships (SLR) Liaison Meeting
Ashdown Room, Civic Centre on Thursday 15th January 2026 at 10am

PRESENT: Cllr. Chris Dowling East Sussex County Council
Cllr. Claire Dowling East Sussex County Council
Judy Deane Stakeholder Liaison Officer
Jo Reed Traffic & Safety Mgr (ESCC)
Phil Read Highway Steward (ES Highways)

IN ATTENDANCE:

Rachel Newton – Senior Administrative Officer, Uckfield Town Council
Minutes taken by Rachel Newton

1.0 APOLOGIES

None.

2.0 APPROVE MINUTES FROM THE LAST MEETING

The minutes of the last SLR meeting held on the 1 July 2025 be taken as read, and confirmed as a correct record.

3.0. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE LAST MEETING

a) Training resources

An update was provided prior to the meeting, in relation to a document to assist parishes and town councils with day-to-day referrals and online submissions, particularly to provide more understanding on how they operate in terms of transport control, road safety and rights of way. A pack had been emailed out to all Parishes and Town Councils and can be obtained on their website.

East Sussex Highways had provided a couple of informative engagement sessions last year, both in person and via an interactive webinar, one of which focused on Network Management which highlighted the different areas and procedures for reporting any problems. A proposal was made for the next session to raise a topic on what was considered to be as an emergency and how to report the issue. A visual guide would also be helpful for those who were unsure how to navigate their way around the website.

The Stakeholder Liaison Officer pointed out that when their system deemed an issue to be an emergency, due to the options picked on the online system, parishes and Town Councils tended to email them instead of calling it through, which was what they would encourage. This is a topic being requested at the next engagement session to highlight the pathway for reporting any emergency matters.

b) Parking issues in Lewes Road

In November 2025, members of Full Council noted the current concerns with road safety in Lewes Road (and New Road). The Town Clerk was in the process of organising a multi-agency meeting with the relevant organisations and parties to discuss the location of the bus stop, parking restrictions and pedestrian and vehicular safety at the junction of New Road and Lewes Road.

The Town Clerk would also write to Brighton & Hove Buses regarding our concerns and to obtain their views, and Sussex Police to seek their support with the handling of obstructions at junctions and property entrances.

c) Disabled Bays

A request had previously been made to find out if accessibility audits could be explored for residents experiencing manoeuvrability issues within the High Street. ES Highways had provided a direct contact from the Infrastructure Planning & Place Team which was forwarded on to Councillor Reed to explore further should she wish to do so.

d) Batchelor Way – Visibility issues

This area will be monitored as a safety monitoring precaution, although East Sussex Highways encouraged the Town Council, members of the public and Councillors to report any issues via their website.

e) Bollard and Sign, Lewes Road – Traffic Calming

(discussed at item 4)

4.0 BOLLARD AND SIGN, LEWES ROAD – TRAFFIC CALMING

The bollard and sign was introduced towards the lower end of Lewes Road, as a new safety feature, although this is a blind spot with too many near misses and was not considered to be in the correct place for oncoming traffic. It also kept getting damaged. It was felt that a lack of alternative solutions had been offered for the town.

A proposal was to move the bollard and sign further along Lewes Road (towards the A22 roundabout) so that it's not too close to the bend in the road, and further away from the entrance to the Ridgewood Development.

The Assistant Manager for Transport Development Planning at ESCC had confirmed that a separate meeting was being arranged to discuss this matter and a number of other highways related issues later this month.

5.0 POT HOLES – MANOR WAY

A councillor had noticed pot hole filling on Manor Way and had requested a brief overview of what ES Highways thought was causing the road to collapse so much.

A condition report had been carried out along with three potholes having been repaired within the last couple of months. It was evident that the issue was caused by cars parked on one side of the road, meaning the weight of vehicles was always in this part of the carriageway. However, this was not causing a safety issue.

6.0. THE DRIVE – 1 (SPEEDING TRAFFIC)

The ES Highways Traffic and Safety Manager was asked if they could ensure that when diversions were in place, that The Drive was protected from speeding traffic since no one tended to turn right from London Road into Budletts Lane, and the pinch point in Church Street should be protected to stop vehicles from mounting the pavement, just past the Malthouse and Kenwood Trust residential housing.

The Town Clerk had confirmed that there were diversions in place to the north of Uckfield as a result of gas maintenance repair works in Coopers Green Road and in February, there would be further works along Snatts Road.

A member had enquired if it was possible for the diversion sign at Budletts roundabout to be changed to include a roundabout image, to emphasise the need for road users to use the roundabout rather than wait to cut across traffic. This had already been reported to the Highways team by both Councillor Dowling and Councillor Galley and an inspection had been carried out with additional signage requested to reinforce the no right turn restriction.

7.0 THE DRIVE – 2 (PARKING ISSUES)

A member had pointed out that parking was becoming a huge issue for some residents in this area so ES Highways were asked if they could re-visit and assess The Drive and all roads off The Drive in their forward planning, especially as we were heading towards unitary councils.

Also, since Wealden District Council had approved building on two of the parking areas in Lealands Drive and Campbell Close, at times there was a struggle for traffic along these roads, which could be an issue for service vehicles such as buses, fire appliances, ambulances and dustcarts. This was more evident in the dark winter months since none of the grass verges were left unscathed.

The Road Safety Team proposed that these and other parking issues in the town would likely be raised during the transition to combined unitary councils in the future.

8.0 YELLOW HATCHING AT JUNCTION OF NEW TOWN AND FRAMFIELD ROAD TO BE RE-DONE

This had already worn out and was in need of repairs. However, after an initial inspection by the Highways team, it was advised that these were currently still visible, therefore they would not be looking to refresh these lines in the immediate future. The Highways Steward would continue to monitor this on their regular inspection of the area.

9.0 DISABLED PARKING BAYS ON HIGH STREET – COLOUR CODING BAYS

It was reported that the disabled bays needed re-marking in the disabled parking areas on the High Street and a request to see if there was an option to have these colour-coded to enhance the spaces and misuse of these spaces.

However, this would not conform to The Traffic Signs Regulations and General Directions 2016 legislation, although some councils have applied to refresh the disabled bays themselves, this would not be a priority.

10.0 WELCOME TO UCKFIELD SIGN – RE-INSTATE ‘RIDGEWOOD’

A request was submitted to return the "Ridgewood" sign underneath the "welcome to Uckfield" sign off the Little Horsted roundabout.

This request had been chased previously by the Town Clerk. It was meant to be reinstated when the traffic calming improvements were introduced in Lewes Road but the Town Council had not received any response on the matter.

The Traffic and Safety Manager recalled that there was a sign that was added during the Ridgewood Development and that she would try to find it and let us know.

11.0 NEW ROAD – TRAFFIC CALMING CONCERNS

Some safety concerns were raised on behalf of Councillor Reed in relation to reports of lorries accessing New Road from Lewes Road. This road was used as a cut-through and the speed at which some vehicles were driving and the amount of traffic with all the new developments is impacting the residents.

There was also a concern raised about two cottages on the corner of the junction, and that vehicles were driving on pavements along Lewes Road, which was potentially dangerous for residents exiting their houses.

Some suggestions had been offered, and previously suggested, including:

- To install metal bollards starting at the corner of New Road on the pavements, to prevent cars driving onto them;
- To request access control as a cut through road entirely, with street bollards installed half way along New Road (previously suggested by Asst. Town Clerk)

These items would be raised as part of the meeting with the Transport Development Planning team, later this month.

12.0 ROAD SURFACE BREAKING UP – HIGH STREET

There were a couple of areas raised within the High Street where the road surface was breaking up, including one area just north of The Sacred Heart hardware shop and another area other outside Coles Menswear.

The Highway Steward had inspected and advised there were no areas that met their safety criteria for repair. They would therefore not be carrying out any works at this time. The Highway Steward would continue to monitor this on their regular inspection of the area and arrange any works as and when they may become necessary.

13.0 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

A query had been raised in relation the number of accidents that had occurred on various roundabouts including Copwood roundabout, Blackdown roundabout, Budletts and Batts Bridge roundabout, and what was being done about this.

Whilst the statistics on KSI data was being monitored, a lot of these incidents were only minor bumps and scrapes to vehicles and not sustained personal injuries, so this was within the normal scope of accidents to be expected.

That said, with any defects or lines missing on any of those roundabouts this would still need to be addressed and monitored and if there was a serious collision, the Road Safety Team would liaise with Sussex Police on any safety measures being adopted.

14.0 DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

Date of next meeting to be arranged.

The meeting ended at 11.00am