

EAST GRINSTEAD TOWN COUNCIL

To: Chairman and Members of the Public Services
Committee:
Cllrs Mrs Belsey, Mrs Bennett (Vice Chairman),
Mrs Mockford (Chairman), Mockford, Ody, Mrs
Russell, Saull, Webster and Wyan
Town Mayor and Deputy Town Mayor.
(Other distribution for information only)

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Quorum is 4

28th February 2019

Dear Councillor,

Your attendance is required at a meeting of the PUBLIC SERVICES COMMITTEE to be held in the Council Chamber, East Court on **7th March 2019 at 7.00 p.m.** Where possible please clarify any points or raise questions with the Chairman or Clerk before the meeting to ensure an answer can be given. Please note that the report to supplement the agenda has been emailed to your official town council email address (and is posted on the Town Council website). Please print and bring those papers to the meeting, should you have any difficulty please address this with the Clerk prior to the day of the meeting.

Yours faithfully,



Mrs J W Holden,
Town Clerk.

AGENDA

- 1 Public Participation. The public are welcome to ask a question of the Committee on matters that are within the Committee's remit. The question should not be a statement nor in several parts and it would be appreciated to be kept short, to maximise the time for other questions; there is no right of reply. The Chairman will call the question from those who are indicating that they wish to speak.

To commence not later than 7.15p.m. -.

- 2 Apologies for absence
- 3 To receive Minutes of the meetings held on 29th November 2018 and 17th January 2019.
- 4 Chairman's Update (information item only)
- 5 To receive Members Declarations of Interest. (Min 244 17.1.19)
- 6 Police Matters (Min 183 29.11.18)
Inspector Dommett will be in attendance and will be available to advise on current work areas.
- 7 Street Pastors: Three Trustees will be in attendance to update the committee on the current work of the street pastors and discuss future proposals, as well as hearing views from the Town Council as to how they can be effective.
- 8 Ambulance Service, an update concerning the current performance and the future plans of SECAMB regarding ambulance response in the East Grinstead Area.

- 9 Report from the Community Liaison Officer (Min 186 29.11.18)
Committee are asked to note the work of the Community liaison officer this quarter, as outlined in his report.
- 10 Consultations (Min 187 29.11.18)
Copies of any consultations submitted will be included here for noting.
- 11 Cycle and Walking Working Group (Min 107 6.9.18)
The Working group will give an update on their work and will be asking the committee to recommend some funding from the Neighbourhood Plan Implementation budget be allocated for the surveys to be undertaken in the spring.
- 12 Public Right of Way Barrier – Hackenden Way to Spring Copse
Committee are asked to consider replacing the former chichane fencing to this public right of way.

The next meeting of the Committee is scheduled for **Thursday 6th June 2019.**

EAST GRINSTEAD TOWN COUNCIL

To: Chairman and Members of the Public Services Committee (07.03.19)
(Other distribution for information only)

Agenda item 6: POLICING ISSUES IN EAST GRINSTEAD (Min 183 29.11.18)

Inspector Pete Dommett will be present, will provide an update on current activity and can respond to members of the committee's questions. Stats are no longer provided, Councillors are asked to access http://www.ukcrimestats.com/Police_Force/Sussex_Police and view their ward for updated crime statistics and comparisons. The following totals have been pulled from the site.

Police Ward	Total Crime for September 2018	Total Crime for December 2018
Ashplats	20	14
EG Town	69	62
Herontye and Ashurst Wood (including Worsted)	26	23
Imberhorne and Baldwins	37	37
Total crime East Grinstead	152	136

Contacts:

Contact numbers are: emergency 999, non-emergency 101 but also the dedicated neighbourhood policing number for Mid Sussex 01273 404937 - a response is guaranteed within 72 hours so it is more for intelligence and reporting concerns rather than specific incidents that need response. The Confidential anti-terrorism line is 0800789321.

Current projects:

- The Police have assisted with the CCTV project (we are now up and running with the new cameras), the Clerk and Leader of the Council have visited the Lewes control centre and a visit will be arranged for the whole committee following the elections.
- The Police have worked with the officers and working group concerning the Safe Places project. Assisting to secure funding and supplying paperwork. Further to the January meeting the MSP did approve the funding for the subscription to the safe place national network.
- Following some issues of antisocial behaviour with young people, a meeting with representatives from the senior schools, police, street pastors, MSDC and Town Council to discuss positive schemes and options is to be held.

This report is for noting and for the committee to put questions to the Inspector following his verbal update at the meeting.

Agenda Item 9: Report from the Community Liaison Officer (186 29.11.18)

The following report has been provided by Jonathan Ansley. Where areas overlap with other Committees, they will be reported elsewhere. Also, the CLO's role supports the work of the Public Services Committee and reports here. However, as this committee has no budget allocation matters concerning other committee remits will be transferred to them. Therefore, on the whole the report below is for noting:

Street Traders Consents – Jonathan is currently in the process of meeting with our local Lions with regards Street Traders Consent for the upcoming Mayfair event. Based on last years' event, there are no anticipated problems with this application.

MSDC Rest Centres – We were recently contacted by Mid Sussex District Council to confirm whether we were still happy for the Mansion and Meridian Hall to remain on their list of Rest Centres. Rest Centres are used in the event of emergencies for temporary accommodation, rest areas etc. We confirmed that this was acceptable; however we stipulated that MSDC's properties were to be used in the first instance to minimize disruption to our business. This was agreed by them.

Hanging Basket Sales – Johnathan has approached traders regarding summer hanging baskets. So far eight confirmations have been received although this will no doubt increase as the closing date of Friday the 8th of March 2019 approaches. Follow up will happen after this date but we anticipate that sales will be similar to last years. The price per basket remains the same as last year, at £35.00 including VAT.

Anti-Social Behaviour East Court Estate – Following several instances of anti-social behaviour at East Court, the CLO and Estates Manager have reviewed the estates CCTV to try and identify the perpetrators. All such acts are reported to Sussex Police via their 101 email address, along with CCTV where useful.

Possible East Grinstead Bonfire Society – We have recently met up with a gentleman who is interested in setting up a Bonfire Society in East Grinstead. He advised that East Grinstead is one of the few towns in Sussex not to have a society, with ours closing down back in the 1920's. He is a member of one of Lewes's societies, and is obviously very passionate about the subject! We discussed at length his visions, and we await an email from him which we will then circulate to various community groups to gauge their interest, there is no guarantee that the Council will provide any funding and should there be support requested from the Council this will be reported to the appropriate committee.

Safe Places – We are working on the Safe Places scheme for roll out in March. This initially includes producing the various application forms, arranging Safe Guard training, and approaching the first of the locations for their applications.

Chicane Fencing Hackenden Lane / Spring Copse - We initially received an email from Sussex Police regarding the illegal riding of motorbikes along the path from Spring Copse to Hackenden Lane. This was initiated following a complaint to Sir Nicholas Soames MP from a Stone Quarry resident, following a near miss on the way to school. Part of the problem was felt to be the removal of the chicane fencing at the Hackenden Lane end of the path. Ownership was a confused matter and It transpires that the path was a Public Right of Way (WSCC), although they were adamant that they did not own the chicane

fence. MSDC also stated that it was not theirs. WSCC did however agree that we could reinstate the fence, although it would be at our cost. I am, therefore, currently in the process of obtaining quotations from contractors, and will report further to Amenities and Tourism Committee for a decision as to whether this should be replaced.

Winter Maintenance Plan – We have continued to work with West Sussex County Council to set up an agreement with a local contractor to snow plough various roads around East Grinstead. We have now found a suitable company, and WSCC are arranging the necessary agreement. In short, should a trigger depth of 5 centimetres of snow fall, the contractor will be instructed to snow plough certain roads around the town. Costs for this will then be met by both us and WSCC as previously agreed.

Tree Works – Following an application to the Tree Preservation Officer at MSDC for works on trees at Mount Noddy Allotments and the McIndoe Statue, we are pleased to advise that authority has been given and the works have now been undertaken.

Wayfinding Signs – The report outlining the various proposals is now complete, and will be presented to The Amenities and Tourism Committee this cycle.

Cycling Working Group – A questionnaire has been drawn up by the working group, and we are in the process of placing this on the website, if it is powered by Survey Monkey, there will be a cost to this (due to the number of questions), Flyers will also be produced, and the cost of these also needs to be met. This will be requested a recommendation from Public Services to Finance and General Purposes funded by the Neighbourhood Plan delivery budget. A fuller report outlining the work of the working group and the costs is elsewhere in the report. Once the survey is underway the group will then start the process of canvassing the public and community groups.

Farmers' Market – We are now back to two permanent stalls, with our third stall due back from their winter break in the next couple of weeks. Following Sussex Biltong's decision to move to another shared premises, we have now been advised that this did not prove successful and that they will be returning to the Market. It is anticipated that matters will continue to improve, particularly as we move in to spring weather.

Stone Quarry Liaison Meeting - the café continues in strength and there is a football training session twice a week run by Crawley football club which has a good attendance from youngsters (boys and girls) mostly from the Quarry residences.

Committee are asked to note the above report.

Agenda Item 10: Consultations (Min 187 29.11.18)

The response to the Gatwick Masterplan was submitted on 4th January:

The East Grinstead Town Council wishes to make the below comments as to the current consultation document:

1. East Grinstead is a town that due to its geographical position both benefits and suffers from its proximity to the airport. We have many residents who work at the airport and also have the issues with noise and air pollution and increased traffic. Our relationship is therefore

complex and it is necessary to understand that our response to the consultation is therefore affected by both positions.

2. The Masterplan is an overview, setting out the aspiration of the airport built around growth and maximisation of the economic development contribution to the south east. There is therefore a lack of detail which would be necessary to allow the Parish to determine whether it is supportive or not of the proposals (detail concerning housing, transport, social infrastructure, noise and air pollution and environmental changes) as with many such projects; the devil is in the detail. However our responses are intended to be constructive and helpful to this process.
3. In essence GAL have put forward three (non-exclusive) Options of;
 - a. retaining a single runway,
 - b. incorporating the standby runway for regular use for departures, and
 - c. Safeguarding land for an additional runway in the future to the south of the existing runway.
4. The Council are supportive of the sustainable expansion of Gatwick on the basis that this drives employment opportunity in to the area. We acknowledge that the demand for air travel is increasing and GAL is keen for Gatwick to retain its market share. We acknowledge that it has already surpassed the expectation for annual passengers, and these numbers will in all likelihood continue to grow.
5. The Council does not support expansion at any cost.
6. The Council requires Gatwick to acknowledge the environmental bi-product of the airport, *traffic and pollution* and to take all and any options available to reduce the effect of existing and increased impacts on the environment. As Mid Sussex is a low unemployment area, new jobs will inevitably result in inward migration for workers, both those seeking housing and commuting to the airport.

Measures must include:

- a. Infrastructure investment to relieve road congestion east west between the airport and Kent: There is no mention of additional investment to the M23 (currently being upgraded to a smart motorway), however as Gatwick continues to grow the mitigation is swallowed up and the traffic problems are exacerbated. In addition the planned new housing off the A22/ A264 and A23 will add pressures to these routes for non-airport traffic; GAL must work with the highways authorities for West Sussex, East Sussex, Kent and Surrey. All four need to work together with GAL to ensure the feeder routes to the M23/ A23/ A22 and A264 are fit for purpose and future proofed.
 - i. East Grinstead would like to see a road/ rail or other new transport option between Tunbridge Wells and the Airport with stops at East Grinstead and villages. (this would serve passengers travelling from the east, additional development on the Reading to Gatwick route would allow west-east travel and both provision would serve as an alternative route if the London/ Gatwick route is incapacitated).
 - ii. East Grinstead would like to see Gatwick providing or subsidising bus services for passengers and staff to run for reasonable cushions to the hours of the shifts and flight time table. Passengers and staff unable to reach the airport early in the morning or late in the evening are being forced to the roads. Gatwick needs to take a lead in this and provide the alternatives.
 - iii. Providing sustainable alternative transport is now vital to be explored and introduced. So many of the passengers and staff are travelling east west and are not therefore accommodated in any travel other than road use. The A264 and subsequently A22 remain over capacitated which will only worsen without an alternative travel option. Minister Chris Grayling commented in 2018 while visiting the area that a solution to the A22/ A264 congestion must be found, this will be vital as part of planning discussions over further development if the airport is to successfully increase in line with its forecast and aspiration.
- b. Further investment in the M23; spur roads, slip roads and junctions (particularly junction 10): The M23 must be a conduit, not a congestion area.

- c. Further investment in to the railway network and Gatwick station: Whilst a significant amount of money has been invested this is to make it fit for purpose today, however with the significant growth the current over-crowded trains and disrupted service will need considerable further development. GAL will need to work with Network Rail.

7. Mitigation to the Ashdown Forest:

The Forest is a natural asset that suffers from traffic pollution but also the aircraft emissions. It is essential that the aircraft industry continues to develop more environmentally friendly aircraft to offset this and the industry contribute to the cleaning up of the Forest. There has been documented decline in many natural species, and it is vital that a healthy balance between growth and protection of the natural environment is reached.

8. Strategic plans and procedures to deal with modern threats to the airport such as terrorism, severe weather and drones:

When the airport is forced in to a holding position, the circling of air-craft increases noise and emissions to the residential and natural areas. The responses need to be quicker to resume normal patterns of arrival albeit within a safe manner. This also happens when there is no threat, but flight delays or tail winds have resulted in craft missing their slot or arriving too early. Better management of departing and approaching aircraft is needed to remove these stacking situations that are too frequent.

9. The paper refers to the Governments Green Paper on National Aviation Strategy which sets out the modernised use of airspace separating aircraft by time not distance. With the intention of using two runways we are concerned that this would mean a significant increase in flights. Whilst the option for the use of the emergency runway would only be used for departures, by removing a significant number from the main runway this allows a considerable increase in flights. The consultation paper refers to noise levels being *broadly similar and no breach of air quality limits on the local area*. The Local area is not defined and again the welfare of the existing residents but also the further afield natural spaces such as Ashdown Forest are of concern. We are concerned as to the Should the third option of a new runway to the south be implemented there is no such comment as to restriction for arrival or departure and as this could be delivered within 10 years this could mean a considerable increase on current flights.

- a. In order to increase the flights at Gatwick, further advancements in the reduction of noise and pollution must be proven and implemented. It is accepted that planes have become cleaner and quieter, however further advancements must be made as it is not acceptable to broadly maintain levels, we must seek to improve them.

10. The paper talks about significant increase in car park provision; this will need to be in multi-story car park decks as with new taxi ways and an additional runway increasing flights, car travel is on the whole not sustainable transport and we welcome some development, but would prefer to see investment in alternative travel provisions or rail, bus and other options, to remove the need for the car to the airport as a preferred mode of travel. The Airport of the future should be well connected with easy onward travel, not simply dumping a large volume of cars on to the highway network.

11. We are aware of the Mid Sussex DC response to this consultation and would support their call for the publication of your evidence base for noise and air pollution and to prepare detailed assessments of housing and employment impacts from the growth plan of the airport. This information is essential to allow the local authorities to factor this in to their own development strategies.

12. We are further aware of the Gatwick Charity Foundation and its potential to support local communities. This fund should be strategically analysed to evaluate the support and real improvement it has had on the area, it should be promoted in areas where there has been little take up and if necessary should initiate schemes and ideas for approval to the local area if there are few bids emerging. The funds should be sufficient and should be able to make a real difference to the locality offsetting the presence of the airport.

We trust the above is helpful in the deliberations.

This is for noting having been circulated at the time of the submission

Agenda Item 11: CYCLING AND WALKING WORKING GROUP (Min 107 6.9.18)

The following report has been provided by Cllrs Ody and Hodges:

As part of our plan to put in place a LCWIP for the town, it is important to find out what the town's residents views are on cycling and walking in East Grinstead. The information and data that we receive from the residents will be invaluable for our progression in formalising the LCWIP and putting together a coherent and achievable plan for any cycling and walking infrastructure for East Grinstead.

To enable us to extract as much information from our residents we have put together an online questionnaire that will be asking residents about their journeys in and around town and their thoughts as to what we can do to improve the safety aspects of the walking and cycling infrastructure. There are going to be roughly 22 questions on the survey.

To promote what we are trying to achieve we will require leaflets to give out to stakeholders in the town, to include the hospital, schools, shops, public groups like East Grinstead Cycle Club and social media etc. that all lead people to the online questionnaire. Jonathan Ansley has a complete list of the organisations that we will be talking to plus random days where we will be handing out leaflets at the train station. We will have a full plan and dates for the leaflet handing out. The EG Cycle Forum members are all very keen to help as well. The decision to propose the questionnaire and survey monkey was reached at the last working group meeting on 26/11/18 and the questions have been finalised since then. The Group will use the EGTC gazebo when at the Station.

We are asking the Public Services committee for £80 to pay for the online questionnaire for two months subscription plus cost for printing the leaflet. It is anticipated that £300 would be the upper limit of the expend. The clerk has advised this can be met from the neighbourhood plan implementation budget.

Committee are asked to

- 1 confirm that a questionnaire/ survey should be undertaken
- 2 recommend to Finance and General Purposes Committee the expend up to £300 to meet the cost of the survey and flyers.

Agenda item 12: CHICANE AT HACKENDEN LANE/ SPRING COPSE

EGTC were contacted by Sussex Police regarding the illegal riding of motorbikes along the path from Spring Copse to Hackenden Lane, asking us who owned the path. This was initiated following a complaint to Sir Nicholas Soames MP from a Stone Quarry resident, following a near miss on their way to school. Part of the problem was felt to be the previous removal of the chicane fencing at the Hackenden Lane end of the path.

The Community Liaison Officer contacted both Mid Sussex DC & West Sussex CC Highways to try and ascertain ownership. It transpired that the path was a Public Right of Way (WSCC), although they were adamant that they did not own the chicane fence. Mid Sussex also stated that it was not theirs. West Sussex did however agree that we could reinstate the fence, although it would be at our cost.

See below a picture of the original chicane fencing.



The height of the original fencing is a concern especially at night as it could be a trip hazard; therefore we would recommend that it be reinstated at waist height. We have a quotation to replace the fencing, which is as follows:

Replace like for like (wood and steel) for £725.00. 150 x 150 posts with 100 x 100 rails. All concreted in.

Replace with steel tubing, same dimensions as above, £1,900.00.

To increase height of either to waist height would cost an additional £250.00. In addition we are ascertaining the need for planning permission which we believe may be necessary and will advise of the cost of this (the council get a discounted rate). However the total cost will be either a maximum of £1,300 or £2,600. There is no budget for this type of work other than the public works budget which is fully committed this year, therefore this would need to be approved as an overspend on that budget and paid for from general reserves. Once installed it would then fall to the Amenities and Tourism Committee to maintain the fencing.

If Committee feel that this should be reinstated at the expense of the Town Council a recommendation to the Amenities and Tourism Committee, who control this budget will be necessary.

Town Clerks report ends