

Seaford Town Council

To members of the Planning & Highways Committee

A meeting of the **Planning & Highways Committee** will be held **via Zoom*** on **Thursday 8th October 2020 commencing at 7.00 pm** which you are summoned to attend.

Z.L. Mouland.

Isabelle Mouland Assistant Town Clerk 1st October 2020

*see overleaf for important information to join virtual meeting and accessing password

PLEASE NOTE THAT THIS MEETING WILL BE VIDEO RECORDED

Agenda

1. Apologies for Absence and Declaration of Substitute Members

2. Disclosure of Interests

To deal with any disclosure by Members of any disclosable pecuniary interests and interests other than pecuniary interests, as defined under the Seaford Town Council Code of Conduct and the Localism Act 2011, in relation to matters on the agenda.

3. Public Participation

To deal with any questions, or brief representations, from members of the public in accordance with Standing Order 3 and Seaford Town Council Policy.

4. Planning Applications

Planning Applications received week commencing 14th September 2020

LW/20/0592 – 89 Stafford Road – Single storey rear extension, front entrance porch and summerhouse in the rear garden for Miss Wah See Li.

LW/20/0575 – 75 Sutton Avenue – Two storey front extensions and first floor front extension for Mr J Crowther.

LW/20/0593/CD – Land South and West of the East Sussex County Council Port Access Road Southern Roundabout - Discharge of conditions 2 (Surface Water Drainage Rates), 3 (Details of Outfall), 4 (Management of Surface Water), 5 (Swale & Pond Design), 6 (Drainage Maintenance & Management Plan), 8 (Seed Mix), 10 (Method Statements), 12 (Details of Fencing), 13 (Details of Lighting Columns) and 16 (Details of Cycle Stands) of application LW/19/0371 for Newhaven Port and Properties.

Please note, the Town Council has been consulted on this application as it responded last year to the application for the construction of the link road. The application deals with compliance with the lengthy list of conditions and is largely 'administrative' but is reported



for members' information due to the significance of the scheme and its possible impact on views across Tidemills and Seaford Bay.

LW/20/0617 – 11 Crown Hill – Single storey side extension for Dr S Thorp.

LW/20/0569 – 49 Tudor Close – Proposed front extension and clear glazing to windows Installed in proposed dormers for Mr and Mrs Nye.

LW/20/0618 – 40 Cuckmere Road – Proposed side and rear extension for Mr A Booth.

Planning Applications received in week commencing 21st September

LW/20/0605 – 15 Albany Road – Creation of porch at front of property for Mr S Curtis.

LW/20/0635 – 5 Sherwood Road – Single storey rear extension for Mr and Mrs Swadling.

LW/20/0387 – 127 North Way – Alterations to approved plans of LW/19/0607 for amendments to windows/doors, for the increase in the height of the extension, to extend the balcony, and various other amendments for Mr C Parker.

Please note, this application was requested following a complaint to LDC from the owner of 125 North Way. The alterations referred to in the description of the application have already been carried out without consent. The neighbour has submitted an objection to the alterations.

Tree Works Applications

LW/20/0078/TCA – 25 Hamsey Close – T1 Mulberry tree, to reduce top height by 1.5 metre and reshape lateral growth to match, reasons due to tree falling over last year and has now stabilised and can be reduced to a more manageable size. T2 Acer, 1 metre down and reshape. T3 Conifer, cut to boundary, reasons due to maintaining compact size to trees.

5. <u>Planning for the Future – Public Consultation</u>

To consider report 73/20 seeking a response to the proposals in the White Paper, the Planning Officer report (54/20) noted at the previous Committee meeting held 17th September has been included for information (pages 4 to 9).

6. Annual Review of Parking Restrictions

To consider report 67/20 of the Planning Officer and respond to East Sussex County Council on the initial proposals for new restrictions for roads in Seaford (pages 10 to 15).

- Proposed Footpath Diversion Order- Tidemills Railway Crossing To consider report 68/20 on the proposals from Network Rail and the site meeting held on 15th September (pages 16 to 18).
- 8. Proposed Road Closures Seaford Christmas Magic Revised

To consider report 69/20 on proposed revised arrangements and road closures for Christmas Magic 2020 (page 19).



9. Update Report

To consider report 72/20 of the Planning Officer on recent decisions made by Lewes D.C on applications previously considered by the Committee (pages 20 to 21).

For further information about items appearing on this Agenda please contact:

Isabelle Mouland, Assistant Town Clerk, 37 Church Street, Seaford, East Sussex, BN25 1HG Email: admin@seafordtowncouncil.gov.uk

Telephone: 01323 894 870 (please note that due to working from home, this phone line is not currently manned, so please leave a voice message and this will be picked up and forwarded to the relevant member of staff to deal with)

Zoom Meetings

In line with the Coronavirus Act 2020 and subsequent regulations governing local authorities meetings, the Council will be holding this meeting via the online video conference facility, Zoom.

To join the Zoom meeting follow this link: https://zoom.us/j/95628049654?pwd=WEo0UGImS2ZQM1dudkVNUm1WUDZWZz09

Meeting ID: 956 2804 9654

Password: (to ensure online security it is recommended that meeting passwords are not publicised and are given directly to those intending to attend the meeting. Please therefore email <u>admin@seafordtowncouncil.gov.uk</u> for the password at least 24 hours before the scheduled meeting date)

Telephone number to join by audio only: 0203 901 7895 (you will be prompted to enter the meeting ID and password before joining the meeting)

Zoom Joining Instructions are available to download from https://www.seafordtowncouncil.gov.uk/council-meetings/





Report 73/20

Agenda Item No:	5
Committee:	Planning & Highways
Date:	8 th October 2020
Title:	Planning for the Future Consultation - Response
By:	Geoff Johnson, Planning Officer
Purpose of Report:	To consider the Committee's response to the public consultation on 'Planning for the Future' white paper.

Recommendations

The Committee is recommended:

1. To consider a response to the public consultation 'Planning for the Future' white paper.

1. INTRODUCTION

- **1.1** At the Committee meeting held 17th September 2020, in order to allow members to review the lengthy information, it was agreed to note the contents of report 54/20 (attached at <u>Appendix A</u> for information) and for the Committee's response to be sought at its next meeting.
- **1.2** The Committee is now invited to consider a response to the public consultation.

2. FINANCIAL APPRAISAL

There are no direct financial implications as a result of this report.

3. CONTACT OFFICER

The Contact Officer for this report is Geoff Johnson, Planning Officer.

John



Agenda Item No:	6
Committee:	Planning & Highways
Date:	17 th September 2020
Title:	Planning for the Future – White Paper Consultation
By:	Geoff Johnson, Planning Officer
Purpose of Report:	To consider the Committee's response to the public consultation on 'Planning for the Future' white paper.

Recommendations

The Committee is recommended:

1. To note the contents of the report and that a response will be sought from the Committee at its meeting on 8th October 2020.

1. INTRODUCTION

- **1.1** As members may already be aware through the national press and media, the Government has recently issued two white papers outlining significant changes to the current planning system and the setting up of a new system specifically for fast tracking the allocation of land and the granting of permission for new housing.
- **1.2** Two planning white papers were published by the Ministry for Housing, Communities & Local Government (MHCLG) on 6th August. The first covered changes to the current system mostly relating to the provision of affordable housing and the First Homes initiative and was circulated with the agenda for the meeting on 27th August.
- **1.3** The second white paper 'Planning for the Future' covers more complex and wide-ranging changes which will require primary legislation.
- **1.4** The white paper is in three sections which it calls 'pillars' and runs to 84 pages, although more space is taken up with photos than actual text. The three pillars are entitled; Planning for Development, Planning for Beautiful and Sustainable Places and Planning for Infrastructure and Connected Places.
- **1.5** The main reasoning behind the white paper is set out in its introduction. The general view is that England (the paper only relates to England) needs more housing and the reason why we don't have the supply to match the demand is that planning decisions are currently discretionary rather than rules based with nearly all decisions are taken on a case by case basis.
- **1.6** Also, the technology used by local planning authorities to deal with local plans and applications is based on 20th Century processes and too much documentation (e.g. S.106 Obligations) which cause unnecessary delay and stifles development.
- **1.7** The Government intends to deal with these issues partly by shifting the democratic/public input from the application stage to the plan-making stage and



speeding up the procedures for making local plans leaving us with a process far closer to the zoning system common in other countries.

2. PLANNING FOR DEVELOPMENT

- 2.1 Local plan making will be simplified by focusing on identifying land under three categories Growth areas suitable for substantial development, and where outline approval for development would be automatically secured for forms and types of development specified in the plan; Renewal areas suitable for some development, such as gentle densification where there would be a general presumption in favour of development ; and Protected areas where as the name suggests development is restricted. This, it is claimed, could halve the time it takes to secure planning permission on larger sites identified in plans. Local planning authorities would also be able to identify sub-areas in their growth areas for self and custom-build homes, so that more people could build their homes.
- **2.2** The local plan process will be streamlined and reduced to a 30-month timescale. The plan itself will concentrate on setting out clear rules for development rather than general policies as at present. Plans will be reduced in size by two thirds and rather than setting out a long list of policies will contain a core set of standards and requirements for development (e.g. height and density).
- **2.3** There will be a 'radical reinvention' of the methods of publicising local plans and getting the public involved in the planning process generally. There will be less reliance on notices stuck to lamp posts and published in local papers and more on enabling people to get involved via social media and their smartphone. The Government wants to see 'more democracy taking place more effectively at the plan making stage' and to 'put a new emphasis on engagement' but there is no clear indication as to how this would be achieved apart from this 'greater use of data and digital technology' and a visual and map based format.
- **2.4** Whereas the current test applied to the plan by an inspector is based on 'soundness' the new test will be one of 'sustainable development 'and other duties such as co-operation between neighbouring authorities, will be abolished.
- **2.5** There will be clearly specified stages in the process where public input will be required. The proposed timetable will be:-
 - (a) STAGE 1 (six months) A call for suggestions as to what should go where in the plan based on the three area categories of growth, renewal and protected. Also, suggestions as to how the main consultation should be carried out. This is the equivalent to the current 'Options' stage.
 - (b) STAGE 2 (12 months) The production phase of the plan and the necessary supporting evidence.
 - (c) STAGE 3 (six weeks) The main consultation stage. The draft plan and Statement of Reasons are published and sent to the Secretary of State. Public input is sought as to 'how the plan should be changed and why'. Responses will have a word count limit.
 - (d) STAGE 4 (nine months) A planning inspector appointed by the Secretary of State considers whether the three categories shown in the proposed local plan are "sustainable" as per the statutory test and accompanying national guidance and makes binding changes which are necessary to satisfy the test. The plan-making authority and all those who submitted comments would have the right to be



"heard" by the inspector (whether face to face, by video, phone or in writing – all at the inspector's discretion). The inspector's report can simply state agreement with the whole or parts of the council's Statement of Reasons, and/or comments submitted by the public.

(e) STAGE 5 - (six weeks) The plan comes into force.

3. COMMENT

- **3.1** The overall feeling is that these sweeping reforms to the local plan process will lead to a totally plan-led system with the plan being under the control of the Government through the Planning Inspectorate. In other words a centralized system of zonal planning where local planning authorities will be left to deal with the details or 'reserved matters' of applications on major applications and the only element of discretion involved will be over design issues under the Government's 'Beautiful; Places' initiative (see below).
- **3.2** The current planning system which is still based largely on the original 1947 'model' has become a soft target over the years for attacks both from Governments and the public while it has been the job of under-resourced Local Planning Authorities to keep the system going. Whether the public's faith in the system will be restored by the reliance on data and digital technology and centralization on this scale has to be open to question.

4. INFRASTRUCTURE CONTRIBUTIONS

- **4.1** The Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) will be abolished as will the current system of contributions through s.106 Obligations. They will be replaced by a national levy, variable or flat-rate, based on the uplift in the value of land allocated for development. The aim will be to get rid of the delay involved in negotiating s.106 agreements and the current 'viability' issues which frequently lead to reductions in affordable housing provision. The Government's pledge is that infrastructure contributions will increase, and that affordable housing provision will, at worst, remain at current levels.
- **4.2** The trigger for the infrastructure payments will be first occupation so occupation can be prohibited until due payment is made. Also, the payments apply across all use classes so new retail, industrial and other commercial development will be covered.

5. COMMENT

5.1 Currently, as mentioned above, infrastructure payments are made through CIL and s.106 Agreements. CIL payments have the advantage of being based simply on the number of units built irrespective of viability issues whereas additional contributions i.e. of affordable housing or payments in lieu are dependent on viability. The viability test laid down by the Government in the Policy Guidance allows for 20% profit for the developer. This and the 'opaque' nature of the test has led to widespread underprovision of affordable housing. The Newlands development is a good example. In this case outline consent was granted subject to the requirement in the local plan for 40% of the units to be affordable. The developers applied the approved viability test to their development costs and in the reserved matters application arrived at the figure of 0% affordable housing but offered 8% provision as consolation. Following negotiations, it was agreed that the scheme could be amended to save part of the building costs and a compromise figure of 25% provision was concluded.



- **5.2** The Government anticipates that in general developers' profits on any scheme based on the uplift in land value provided by planning consent, are between 25 and 50% and that the proposed infrastructure payments system will secure a greater share of those profits for local authorities. The White Paper does however contain the proviso that any increase in payments 'would need to be balanced against the risks to development viability.'
- **5.3** Clearly any viability test applied under the proposed system will have to be more tightly drawn than the current test which has enabled developers to evade the due provision of affordable housing

6. DECISION MAKING

- **6.1** There are many criticisms of the performance of local planning authorities (LPA) in the white paper particularly with regard to the speed of decision-making. The failure of local authorities to decide applications within the specified 8-week and 13-week periods is seen as one of the major drawbacks of the current system. The Government proposes to deal with this by introducing greater digitalisation together with more delegation to the officers of detailed applications where the principle of the development has been established.
- **6.2** There are also threats of sanctions against LPAs including the repayment of fees and even the automatic granting of consent where deadlines for the determination of applications has not been met.

7. COMMENT

7.1 Seeing as the failure of LPAs to achieve these deadlines is at least partly down to the successive cuts in local authority funding and resources from 2010 to 2020 the sanctions could be seen as unduly harsh and not worth the potential problems caused by granting consent for unacceptable development

8. PLANNING FOR BEAUTIFUL AND SUSTAINABLE PLACES

- **8.1** There is a marked emphasis on design in the white paper. The Government's objective is to make design expectations more visual and predictable, with design guidance and codes to be prepared locally with community involvement, ensuring that codes are more binding. Special bodies will be set up to support the delivery of locally sourced design codes and a Chief Officer in each LPA will have specific responsibility for design issues
- **8.2** The Government states that it is 'committed to taking a leadership role in the delivery of beautiful and well- designed homes and places, which embed high environmental standards. The Building Better, Building Beautiful Commission recommended that Homes England should attach sufficient value to design as well as price, and give greater weight to design quality in its work'.

9. COMMENT

9.1 It sees it as essential that the local community is fully involved in the drafting of Design Guides. The overwhelming feeling however is that this initiative is merely consolation for the fact that the centralization of the system envisaged by the White Paper will largely deprive local community of their say on the principle of development.



10. CONCLUSION

- **10.1** This white paper is a lengthy document although it does contain a lot of repetition. Also, a lot of the detail is lacking. This will be supplied when the Bill is published for consideration in Parliament.
- **10.2** I have extracted the issues which are relevant to the Committee's work and not sought to cover all the topics in the paper. If members want to read the whole document before considering a response, the web accessible version (without the illustrations) is available on the following link :-

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attac hment_data/file/907956/Planning_for_the_Future_web_accessible_version.pdf

11. RECOMMENDATION

Members are requested for their views of the changes outlined above.

12. FINANCIAL APPRAISAL

There are no direct financial implications as a result of this report.

13. CONTACT OFFICER

The Contact Officer for this report is Geoff Johnson, Planning Officer.

Sha





Seaford Town Council

Report 67/20

Agenda Item No:	6
Committee:	Planning & Highways
Date:	8 th October 2020
Title:	Annual Review of Parking Restrictions
By:	Geoff Johnson, Planning Officer
Purpose of Report:	To review and respond to proposed parking restrictions.

Recommendations

The Committee is recommended:

1. To consider a response to East Sussex County Council on the proposed parking restrictions as detailed within the contents of this report.

1. INTRODUCTION

- **1.1** The Town Council has been consulted by East Sussex County Council on its initial proposals for new local parking restrictions.
- **1.2** The proposals follow requests to the Highways Authority for changes to existing parking controls or where local residents or businesses want new controls to be introduced. There are also areas where safety or access issues have been identified and it is felt necessary to introduce restrictions such as yellow lines.
- **1.3** The authority advises that the level of support will determine the outcome of the proposals. If there are a number of suggested alternatives, these will be considered for inclusion in the final proposals.
- **1.4** If the proposals go forward, then a draft Traffic Regulation Order (TRO) will be advertised allowing 21 days for formal consultation. If there are no objections, the restrictions will be introduced, and the draft TRO will be made permanent. If objections are received to the TRO, the authority will need to consider these and present a report to its Planning Committee.

2. Proposed Restrictions

- **2.1** Plans of the proposals for the four local sites included in the review are appended to this report (appendices 1-4). The proposals can be summarised as follows:
- 2.2 WARWICK ROAD ADJ.TO WARWICK HOUSE AND SEAFORD LIBRARY Moving the existing disabled only bay from the Stafford Road end to the Sutton Park Road end. Removing the existing ambulance only bay. The rest of the road to remain as time limited parking. (Appendix 1)
- **2.3** SHEPWAY PARADE BROAD STREET Existing taxi rank to operate only from 08.00 to 18.00. Unrestricted parking outside these times. (Appendix 2)



- **2.4** BROAD STREET AND SUTTON PARK ROAD/CLINTON PLACE Junction safety measures on north side of junction adjacent to the United Reformed Church and Tesco Express No loading or unloading at any time. (Appendix 3)
- **2.5** THE ESPLANADE AND MARTELLO ROAD Safety measures on and opposite the junction No waiting at any time. (Appendix 4)
- **2.6** The Committee's comments are invited.

3. FINANCIAL APPRAISAL

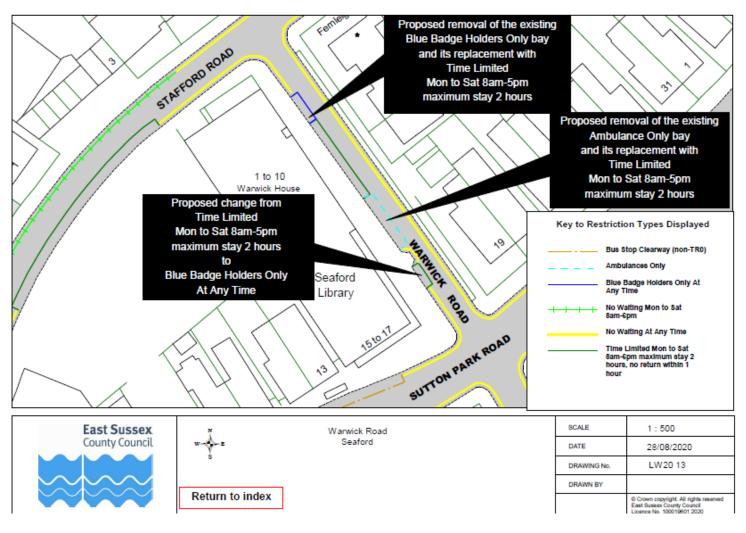
There are no direct financial implications as a result of this report.

4. CONTACT OFFICER

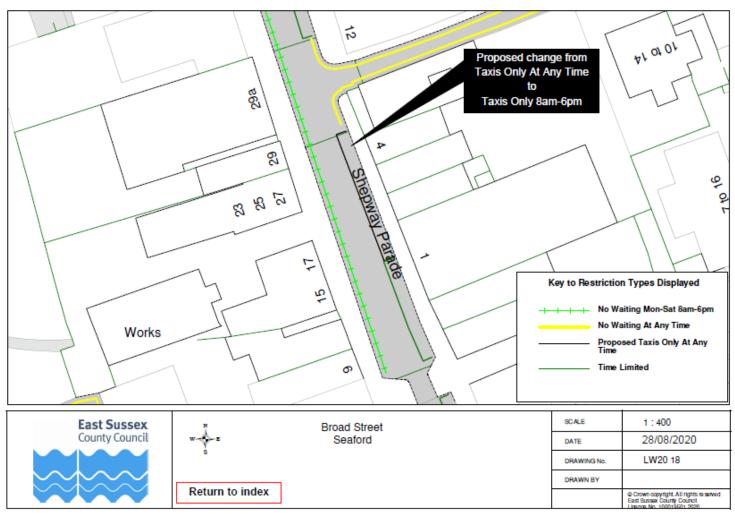
The Contact Officer for this report is Geoff Johnson, Planning Officer.

1 John

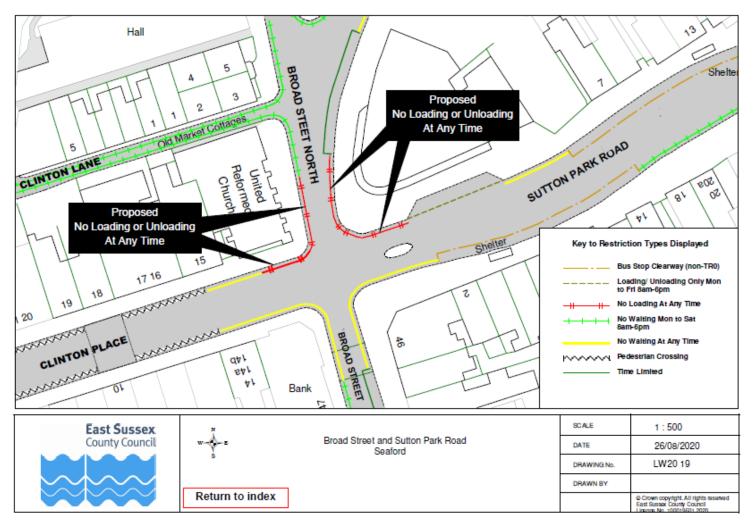




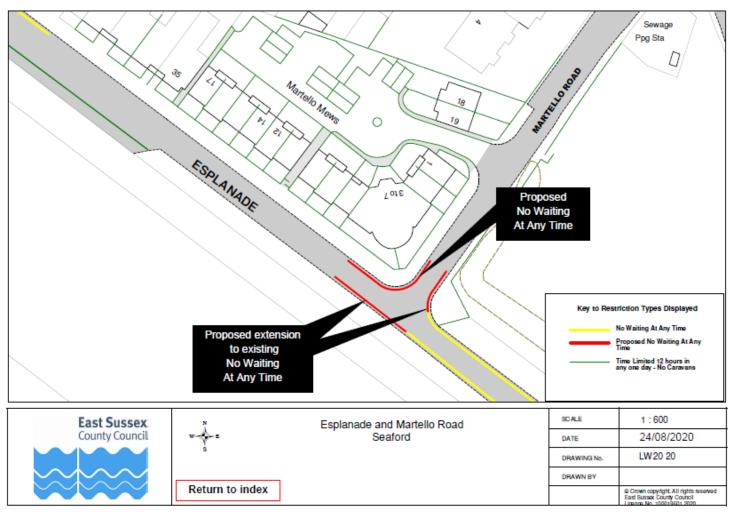
















Seaford Town Council

Report 68/20

Agenda Item No:	7
Committee:	Planning & Highways
Date:	8 th October 2020
Title:	Proposed Footpath Diversion Order - Tidemills Rail Crossing - site meeting held
By:	Geoff Johnson, Planning Officer
Purpose of Report:	To receive an update from the Planning Officer on the proposed footpath diversion order at the tidemills railway crossing and consider a response to Network Rail.

Recommendations

The Committee is recommended:

- **1.** To note the contents of the report.
- **2.** To consider a response to Network Rail on the proposed footpath diversion order at the tidemills railway crossing.

1. INFORMATION

- **1.1** At the Committee meeting on 27th August 2020 the Planning Officer reported that Network Rail had notified the Town Council of the proposed revised route of Footpath 30a at Tidemills which will be implemented once the new footbridge replaces the current crossing.
- **1.2** A plan of the existing and proposed route as supplied by Network Rail is attached to this report (Appendix A).
- **1.3** The site meeting that Network Rail requested took place on Tuesday 15th September. It was attended by the Committee Chair Cllr L Wallraven, Cllr J Edson and the Planning Officer along with three representatives from Network Rail.
- **1.4** A Senior Officer from the Company gave a full briefing on the technical aspects of the need for the crossing. The meeting lasted an hour and during that time representatives were able to see the high level of use, the speed of the trains at the crossing and the short warning time for pedestrians of trains travelling around the bend from Newhaven Harbour towards Bishopstone and Seaford.
- **1.5** The legal requirements for a Footpath Diversion Order before it can be confirmed by the Secretary of State are that it should be 'expedient' and that the new route should not be substantially less convenient to the public using the path.
- **1.6** The expediency issue is covered by the fact that pedestrian level crossings are considered by Network Rail as being a danger to the public. It was this factor which led the South Downs National Park Authority to granting consent for the new bridge



last year despite many objections to the design and appearance of the bridge and its likely impact on views across the Tidemills area.

1.7 Network Rail has requested the initial views of the Town Council prior to the formal notice of the making of the Diversion Order. The current intentions are that the Order will be advertised within the next few months and that, subject to any objections, the work on the bridge will commence next summer.

2. FINANCIAL APPRAISAL

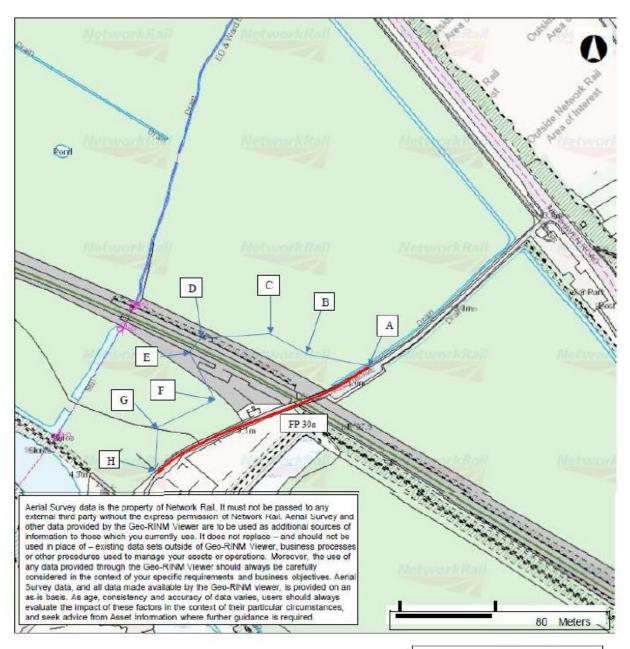
There are no direct financial implications as a result of this report.

3. CONTACT OFFICER

The Contact Officer for this report is Geoff Johnson, Planning Officer.

JJSha





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Plot Date	29/07/20 12:20





Seaford Town Council

Report 69/20

Agenda Item No:	8
Committee:	Planning & Highways
Date:	8 th October 2020
Title:	Proposed Road Closures – Seaford Christmas Magic - Revised
By:	Geoff Johnson, Planning Officer
Purpose of Report:	To present the revised proposed road closure for Seaford Christmas Magic.

Recommendations

The Committee is recommended:

1. To consider the revised road closure application for Seaford Christmas Magic and any comments to be forwarded to Lewes District Council.

1. INTRODUCTION

- **1.1** Members will be aware that the usual arrangements for Seaford Christmas Magic have had to be revised and scaled down due to Covid 19 restrictions.
- **1.2** The revised arrangements, as agreed by the Community Services Committee 21st September 2020, are for the market to take place within a social distanced one-way system with entry from High Street into East Street then into the Peace Gardens. The market will be held in the Ornamental Gardens with the exit through East Street (closest to Bramber Lane) and on to Crouch Lane.
- **1.3** The following closures are applied for: East Street from its junction with High Street to Bramber Lane and Crouch Lane.
- **1.4** The closures required will run from 05.00 to 22.00 on Saturday 5th December.
- **1.5** A formal application has been made to Lewes District Council for an Order implementing these arrangements.
- **1.6** The Committee is requested to consider the application and forward comments to Lewes District Council.

2. FINANCIAL APPRAISAL

There are no direct financial implications as a result of this report.

3. CONTACT OFFICER

The Contact Officer for this report is Geoff Johnson, Planning Officer.





Report 72/20

Agenda Item No:	9
Committee:	Planning & Highways
Date:	8 th October 2020
Title:	Update Report
By:	Geoff Johnson, Planning Officer
Purpose of Report:	To inform the Committee of Lewes District Council decisions

Recommendations

The Committee is recommended:

1. To note the contents of the report.

1. Information

The Town Council (STC) has been notified of the following decisions made by Lewes District Council:

APPROVALS (No objection from STC)

LW/20/0464 – **MALVERN HOUSE ALFRISTON ROAD** – Demolition of outbuilding and erection of timber annexe for ancillary use to the main dwelling Please note, restriction of use condition imposed as per this Committee's request.

LW/20/0502 -38 HAWTH PARK ROAD – Garage conversion with front and rear extensions.

LW/20/0487 – 21 ROTHER ROAD – Demolition of existing conservatory and erection of single storey extension.

LW/20/0456 – 36 STEYNE ROAD – Erection of side extension and remodelling of existing conservatory.

LW/20/0500 – 9 HASTINGS AVENUE – Single storey rear extension and garage conversion.

LW/20/0508 – 14 CORSICA CLOSE – Construction of open veranda to rear elevation

REFUSALS

None.



2. Financial Appraisal

There are no financial implications to the Council as a result of this report.

3. Contact Officer

The Contact Officer for this report is Geoff Johnson, Planning Officer.

Planning Officer GJSman

