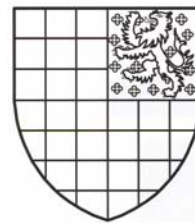


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**LEWES  
TOWN  
COUNCIL**

## **MINUTES**

of the meeting of the **Working Party** formed to address traffic-related issues in Lewes held on **Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2010**, in the **Council Chamber, Town Hall**, Lewes at **2:30pm**.

**PRESENT** Cllrs C Borowski; M Chartier; L F Li; M Milner (*Chairman*); S Murray; R O'Keeffe; J Sinclair;

also present (*not nominated to serve on Working party*): Cllrs R Murray; M Turner

**Attending:** S Brigden (*Town Clerk [TC]*)

**TIWP2009/14** **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:** Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr Barker, due to a work commitment.

**TIWP2009/15** **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:** There were none

**TIWP2009/16** **MINUTES:** The minutes of the meeting 20<sup>th</sup> November 2009 were signed as an accurate record.

**TIWP2009/17** **PUBLIC QUESTIONS:** There were none. Ms D Matthews, a local resident, advised Members of her recent attendance at an East Sussex County Council meeting where she had been assured that long-awaited improvements to Station Street “should be” included in their 2011/12 capital plan, although the sum available could not be established yet. She had also raised an issue regarding a parking bay dedicated for use by blue-badge holders which was incompatible with traffic flows. Cllr Borowski stated that she was also aware of this issue and that an imminent meeting of the District Access Group was to be attended by ESCC officers who could advise on the matter.

**TIWP2009/18** **BUSINESS OF THE MEETING:**

*Pedestrian crossing A26 Malling Hill, Lewes* – It was noted that ESCC Cllr Rosalyn St Pierre had hoped to attend to update Members on progress of her initiative to install a light-controlled pedestrian crossing on Malling Hill. In Cllr St Pierre's absence TC recounted a recent conversation with her in which she had advised a serious problem with the agreed plan, in that ESCC officers had now increased their estimate of cost by £30,000; to over £80,000 for the upgrade. This was not affordable with only the developer contribution (“s106”) of £39,000 and the presently-agreed Town Council funding of £15,000 available. TC and Cllr Milner were asked to liaise with Cllr St Pierre to investigate further, and to establish options.

*Snow & Ice clearance from footways* – Members considered report FC010/2009 (*copy in minute-book*) which had been referred by Council. ESCC had announced that their winter service policy was due to go before a scrutiny committee shortly, and the Working Party's opinions would be forwarded. Discussion on the recent problems ranged across all aspects; from lack of availability of salt and the location of bins to the responsibilities and powers of the various authorities and agencies involved. A major flaw in the existing ESCC “hierarchy” of footway treatment was perceived to be that the greatest need was in suburban residential areas some distance from main feeder roads, which did not feature in priority schedules. It was noted that the list of bins being serviced by ESCC appeared to be incorrect, and there were bins in some locations which were not being refilled, despite being in position in 1997, at the point when ESCC introduced its current policy. It was suggested that LTC

*Continues...*

might assist local resident's associations in the purchase of local grit-bins, but this raised a question of equality as many areas had no form of collective community association, and may have no wish to form one.

Given the complex balance between the legal position and the "moral" one, it was recognized as important for the Council to consider only practical and manageable measures and also that a mixture of approaches would inevitably be required. Members acknowledged a "great willingness for self-help" among the public and it was suggested that an open discussion might be useful, which should involve all parties with a potential role to play; including coordination with the District Council's works team and ESCC operations officers.

**TIWP2009/19**

**CONCLUSIONS/RECOMMENDATIONS:**

It was agreed that: as a first step the location, ownership, and condition of all existing bins should be established. This would inform any consultation on the desirability/need for any additional bins and suggested locations. Further detail was required as to the practicality and costs of contributing to ESCC's operational efforts, *eg* by funding additional hand-salting teams or standby payments. Only then would the Working Party be in a position to formulate recommendations to Council.

As there are six Town Councillors in each of the three Wards, it was proposed that they all be asked to investigate within their Wards and report existing bin locations to TC, who would prepare a map of the sites to inform further discussion.

*The meeting closed at 4:00pm*

Signed: .....

Date: .....