

#### **a. Letter from ESCC sent to a resident re speed concerns on the A272 and School Lane**

Thank you for submitting the speed data from the speed indicator device in Hadlow Down. I understand that you would like to see traffic calming measures introduced near School Lane.

As indicated in my response on 30 September 2024 enforcing the speed limit is a matter for Sussex Police. Anti-social driving including speeding can be reported to the police at [www.OperationCrackdown.org](http://www.OperationCrackdown.org). I would recommend that you also share the speed data with Sussex Police via their website.

We have limited resources available for road safety, so it is important that we ensure our expenditure is used effectively and produces the greatest effect in terms of casualty reduction. Our road safety interventions are therefore directed at locations in the county with the most personal injury crashes, as this produces the greatest effect in terms of casualty reduction.

As part of this year's Road Safety Programme, we have identified 52 locations with four or more personal injury crashes within a 25-metre radius in urban areas, and a 50-metre radius in more rural locations where crashes tend to be spread out over longer lengths of road during a three-year assessment period. A Road Safety Officer has checked the crash data supplied to us by the police, and there have not been any personal injury crashes reported at the A272 / School Lane junction in the latest available three-years (01/09/2021 to 31/08/2024). As it has a very good safety record, a road safety intervention or traffic calming is not presently an identified priority for the County Council.

The Lead Member for Transport and Environment has agreed to allocate £500,000 of capital funding to undertake a Speed Management Programme. As part of the programme a driven assessment has been made to identify the lengths of A and B-class road that would possibly benefit from a lower speed limit. Following this, an appraisal process is currently underway which is assessing each road against our prioritisation framework which includes a range of factors such as the character of the road and the environment, the average

The A272 will be assessed as part of the Speed Management Programme in accordance with policy PS05/02 for a lower speed limit. The results of the Speed Management Programme will be publicised in Autumn 2024, at which point Hadlow Down Parish Council will be made aware of any potential changes to the speed limit on A and B-class roads in the Parish. I trust this clarifies our position and thank you for writing to me about this matter. appraisal process is currently underway which is assessing each road against our prioritisation framework which includes a range of factors such as the character of the road and the environment, the average

Yours sincerely

Nick Skelton - Assistant Director

#### **b. Open letter from District Cllr Lunn re housing numbers**

Already been sent via email.

#### **c. Receive recent update from UK Power Networks on proposed A272 works**

I'm afraid until today I have had no information to give as we have been in negotiation with highways to coordinate the works. We have been denied the permit for October half term due to conflicting works in the area. This was challenged to see if we could collaborate our works with the other party but this was denied.

The next opportunity would be Christmas but a decision has been made to postpone until the February half term for start of works at the top of School lane. I hope the residents understand the reasons for not disrupting the roads over the Christmas holidays.

#### **d. Request for permission to do remedial work on the Pavilion**

The PF committee are seeking grant funding from Wealden to upgrade the Pavilion, with new flooring, heating and 'grab rails' approaching the steps. Although I have sent a copy of our lease they are also asking for written email permission from the PC, as the PC is the landowner, for permission for the work to be carried out.

Hoping u can help.

Best wishes

#### **e. Discuss and agree Urban Grass cutting for 2025**

Dear Hadlow Down Parish Council,

I am writing in relation to the urban grass cutting service for 2025. East Sussex County Council (ESCC) is continuing to offer the same options as last year and would be grateful if you could let us know which option your Council would like to choose for the 2025 season.

This year we have reviewed our verge database and have amended any discrepancies within our mapping where verges have been managed incorrectly in previous years. This means you may notice an increase in the figures outlined in the options below.

##### Options

Option 1 - Standard: Two cuts over the course of a year to be carried out by ESCC at no cost to the Parish/Town Council. Urban grass will be managed for safety purposes only.

Option 2 – Extra cuts: Parish/Town Councils may fund an additional four cuts to be carried out by ESCC, totalling six cuts (two standard and four extra) over the course of the year. This would cost the Parish Council a total of £550.70 for the year.

Option 3 – Self delivery: Parish/Town Councils take on responsibility to deliver all urban grass cutting in their area. This must include a minimum of two cuts over the course of the year. ESCC will not carry out any urban grass cutting in the area. ESCC would pay the Parish Council the sum of £275.35 to cover the 2 cuts they would have been providing in other options.

It should be noted that any contractor employed must be suitably competent and qualified to work safely on the highway, evidence of which must be supplied to ESCC. We also request an agreement to be signed between ESCC and the Town Council if you opt to self-deliver. Further details are available in the attached document.

##### Cost Changes

As stated in last year's option email we will be gradually increasing the cost of the grass cutting over the next 5 years to reflect the increased cost of the grass cutting service to the County Council. The below table states the cost increase over the next 4 years. The top line of the table states how much it costs ESCC to undertake the works, the middle line is what we will be charging local authorities per SQM and the bottom line is what we will be charging Hadlow Down Parish Council per cut for the next 4 years. Please note this is worst-case scenario where inflation runs at 5%.

Please note these figures are based on the forecast SQM area for your Town/Parish for 2025. These figures are subject to change once the maps have been finalised at the beginning of each year.

	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28
	£	£	£
Cost to ESCC (forecast assuming 5% inflation)	0.063	0.066	
Charge-out rate (30% increase per annum initially to catch up with actual cost)	0.041	0.053	0.069
Per cut-Hadlow Down	£137.68	£177.97	£231.7

### Grass Cutting Maps

You can now access the current [grass cutting maps online here](#). Please note these maps are subject to change until all updates from this year have been finalised in January.

I would be grateful if you could indicate which option your Council would like to choose by 29<sup>th</sup> November 2024. Please be aware that if we have not heard back by this date, we will default to Option 1 – two standard cuts.

### **f. Invite to WDC Climate Change event on 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2024**

Join the Climate Conversation! 

Big ideas. Bold action. Let's talk about climate change in Wealden on Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2024 at Weald Hall, Uckfield!

Join us from 9:30 AM to 4:00 PM (lunch and refreshments provided) and help shape the future of our district. Full details in invite attached.

Got something to share or would like a space to showcase your project? Let us know!

RSVP by 18<sup>th</sup> November 2024 at [sustainability@wealden.gov.uk](mailto:sustainability@wealden.gov.uk) and let us know if you have any dietary requirements.

Let's make a difference—together!

### **g. Discuss consultation from NALC re enabling remote attendance and proxy voting at council meetings**

Dear Clerk

Please see details of a consultation shared in yesterday's Local Government Bulletin below:

Consultation – Enabling remote attendance and proxy voting at council meetings

Today (24 October), the Deputy Prime Minister, the Rt Hon Angela Rayner MP, announced in her speech to the Local Government Association Annual Conference and Exhibition 2024, [the launch of a government consultation on enabling remote attendance and proxy voting at council meetings](#).

This consultation seeks views on the detail and practical implications of allowing remote and hybrid attendance at council meetings. It also tests views on the possible introduction of proxy voting for those occasions when an elected member, due to personal circumstances, may be unable to attend even remotely. For example, during maternity, paternity or adoption leave.

Responses are invited from local authority elected members, all types and tiers of authorities, and local authority sector representative organisations. We are also particularly keen to hear from those members of the public who have point of view based on their interest in accessing local democracy in their area or standing as a candidate for local government at any tier to represent their local community at some future point.

The consultation will close on 19 December 2024.