ALFRISTON PARISH COUNCIL

**STAKEHOLDER MEETING – THURSDAY 1ST DECEMBER 2022**

**Present:**

Mr Karl Taylor [East Sussex County Council]

Mr Andrew Keer [East Sussex County Council]

Mr Andy Mileham [ESCC/East Sussex Highways]

Cllr Nick Beechey [Alfriston Parish Council (APC)]

Cllr Stephen Rabagliati [APC]

Mrs Victoria Rutt [APC]

**Apologies:**

Cllr Jen Watkins [APC]

**Meeting commenced at 14:00**

Mr Karl Taylor welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Cllr Beechey explained that this meeting was requested so APC could discuss the responses to the recent stakeholder consultation.

Mr Andrew Keer explained that the plan is to go out to public consultation in mid-January 2023 and the meeting today is to finalise what is included in that document.

Cllr Beechey raised the comment by SDNPA about the 20-mph signage clutter. Mr Andy Mileham confirmed that all existing 30mph signs, and the repeater signs, will be replaced with 20 mph signs. There would be no extra signage other than terminal signs at North Rd end of Winton St. Mr Mileham confirmed that the whole village would be subject to 20mph limit and that there will be something included in the consultation, so this is clear to all residents.

Cllr Beechey reported that SDNPA picked up on the style design of the village gateway shown on the proposal. APC have always been very clear that they would want to see an appropriately rural design and this needs to be made clear in the consultation as it could put residents off a gateway if they think it is going to be the typical white fence gateway. Mr Mileham confirmed that the current description shown in the proposal could be removed and where the gateway is marked on the map, it would state something like ‘design style to be confirmed’. Everyone was in agreement with this.

Mr Keer informed the Clerk that Kelly Burr from the Road Safety Team will be in contact shortly to discuss the style designs available for the gateway/village nameplate to assist the Parish Council.

Cllr Beechey confirmed that APC are in total agreement with SDNPA that the buildout surfaces should be grass and not tarmac.

SDNPA commented on signage clutter. ESCC mentioned a 3-month monitoring period. Mr Mileham confirmed this relates to removal of road narrowing signs each end. The only signs that would remain at gateways are speed and priority ones.

SDNPA also commented about the removal of the yellow backing boards on signage, APC agree with this. Mr Mileham confirmed this is not a problem.

Cllr Beechey requested that as few as white lines as possible in the village. Ideally none but understands that some are required. Mr Mileham confirmed he had no qualms with this but did raise that this may be picked up later in the stage by audit team and amended. APC are aware of this.

Cllr Beechey explained that the painted ‘bus stop’ in the square should not be refreshed as this is no longer used as a bus stop as shown in the response from Cuckmere Buses. Buses do not stop there anymore.

SDNPA commented on the buff surface at the gateways. APC would like these to remain. APC are still very keen to show the options and costings for different road surface treatments from gateway to gateway. It would be good to have these included in the consultation as it will give APC a sense whether residents are keen to have a different surface. Mr Taylor suggested to the Clerk that it could be included on the report, with ball park costings, and how much each option would increase the precept by depending on loan amount and term. Clerk confirmed she could work this out when refreshed costings are sent over. Mr Keer said the costings will be ball park figures as with a new contractor starting, costings are not known yet. APC understood this.

Cllr Rabagliati asked how the consultation will be joint between APC and ESCC? Mr Keer explained that this is a small consultation with a compact time frame compared to the consultation that happened with the traffic light scheme. The proposal is to have it on the consultation hub as usual for 3 weeks, this is an easy system and it helps assist with data analysis. Mr Keer confirmed that for maximum effect, ESCC would be happy to print the consultation out if APC could be responsible for doing a letter drop. APC would be happy to do this. Cllr Rabagliati asked if something could be supplied for a Parish Council meeting?

Mr Keer confirmed that there is no intention to have an exhibition but there would be nothing stopping the Parish Council printing the documentation off in a large size for a meeting if required.

Cllr Beechey explained that APC have a meeting on the 16th January 2023. If the plan is to commence consultation mid-January it would need to be before then as the 3 weeks would not cover the February meeting. ESCC agreed that they would aim to start for the 10th January 2023 in order to have documentation ready for the APC meeting and give APC time to widely publish the information and assist anyone who can’t access to hub.

Mr Taylor asked if APC are now content with the proposal to put forward to consultation?

Cllr Beechey and Cllr Rabagliati were in agreement. Mr Taylor said this was very positive and over the next few weeks the questions will be drawn up and sent over for sign off, if APC could think about what additional questions they would like to be included in the consultation. This will require timely replies, so everything is ready for early January.

Mr Taylor ended the meeting by reporting the Exceat Bridge plan is going to a meeting on Thursday 8th December with a proposal for planning permission approval. This is expected to be granted. If so, the aim is to start construction Summer 2023 with a 12/18-month build. The new bridge will be built alongside the existing bridge so access will remain.

**Meeting ended 14:35**