

## CROWBOROUGH TOWN COUNCIL

To all Members of the **ENVIRONMENT** Committee (with copies to all other Members for information).

You are summoned to attend a meeting of the **ENVIRONMENT** Committee to be held at the Town Hall, The Broadway, Crowborough on Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> July 2015 at 7.30 pm when it is proposed to transact the following business:-



Town Clerk  
21<sup>st</sup> July 2015

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### ALL MEETINGS ARE OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

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Questions from members of the public (15 minutes maximum)

1. **APOLOGIES**
2. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**
3. **MINUTES**
  - 3.1. **Minutes – 2<sup>nd</sup> June 2015**
  - 3.2. **Matters Outstanding (including reports on updates)**
    - 3.2.1 **Lighting improvements at Jarvis Brook pedestrian crossing (7073)**
    - 3.2.2 **Widening of footpath by new pedestrian crossing at Beacon Academy**
    - 3.2.3 **Crowborough Cross Traffic Signals Improvement Scheme**
4. **RAILWAY REPORT**

*Report from John Coleman.*
5. **HIGHWAYS AND TRANSPORT**
  - 5.1 **Strengthening Local Relationships – next meeting 2<sup>nd</sup> September**
6. **ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES**
  - 6.1 **I Care for Crowborough event 21<sup>st</sup> – 26<sup>th</sup> September**
  - 6.2 **To approve nursery supplier**
  - 6.3 **Request from Women's Institute for winter planting to celebrate centenary**

- 7. RIGHTS OF WAY**
  - 7.1 East Sussex County Council's Rights of Way and Countryside Sites Consultation**
  
- 8. CROWBOROUGH'S NATURAL HABITATS**
  - 8.1 To review Ranger's report of tasks completed against Management Plans and other work**
  
- 9. FINANCE**
  - 9.1 Management Account Reports to 31<sup>st</sup> May and 30<sup>th</sup> June 2015**
  
- 10. TO CONSIDER A CHANGE TO CONTRACT FOR RANGER**
  
- 11. URGENT MATTERS AT THE DISCRETION OF THE CHAIRMAN FOR NOTING and/or INCLUSION ON A FUTURE AGENDA**

## **Report for Environment Committee meeting 28<sup>th</sup> July 2015**

### **3.2. Matters Outstanding (including reports on updates)**

#### **3.2.1 Lighting improvements at Jarvis Brook pedestrian crossing (7073)**

The columns and lights have been installed and the request for the transfer of power supply is being progressed by UK Power Networks.

#### **3.2.2 Widening of footpath by new pedestrian crossing at Beacon Academy**

The work is scheduled to be carried out 27<sup>th</sup> July.

#### **3.2.3 Crowborough Cross Traffic Signals Improvement Scheme**

East Sussex County Council has advised that the detailed design is still awaited. Once the design has been received, any relevant CCTV footage may be used as part of the design review and safety audit process.

### **4. RAIL REPORT**

Please see attached report.

### **5. HIGHWAYS AND TRANSPORT**


#### **5.1 Strengthening Local Relationships – next meeting 2<sup>nd</sup> September**

Members are asked to consider items to be taken to the meeting 2<sup>nd</sup> September.

The Minutes of the meeting held 2<sup>nd</sup> March are attached for information.

### **6. ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES**

#### **6.1 I Care for Crowborough event 21<sup>st</sup> – 26<sup>th</sup> September**

The working party has met to progress arrangements for the **I Care for Crowborough**  event 21<sup>st</sup> to 26<sup>th</sup> September. Schools and local groups/organisations have been contacted regarding participation in the activities of the week. Grant funding has been achieved from the Joint Action Group to cover publicity, promotional items and equipment.

#### **6.2 To approve nursery supplier**

As agreed at the Environment Committee meeting 30<sup>th</sup> September 2014, a comparison of nursery suppliers has been undertaken.

#### **6.3 Request from Women's Institute for winter planting to celebrate centenary**

Crowborough Vale WI has asked if the anniversary bed could be planted in the autumn to celebrate the centenary of the WI in the UK.

### **7. RIGHTS OF WAY**

#### **7.1 East Sussex County Council's Rights of Way and Countryside Consultation**

East Sussex County Council has published a report on the recent Rights of Way and Countryside Consultation. 126 responses were received to the online consultation and 65 stakeholders attended events. The results of the consultation will be used with information from other sources to draw up a draft strategy for submission to Cabinet early 2016. Attached is the Executive Summary – the full report is available at:

<https://new.eastsussex.gov.uk/leisureandtourism/countryside/futurecountrysideaccess/>

**8. CROWBOROUGH'S NATURAL HABITATS**

**8.1 To review Ranger's report of tasks completed against Management Plans and other work**

Please see attached report.

**RAIL REPORT for the ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE MEETING****28<sup>th</sup> JULY 2015****MEETINGS ATTENDED****Sussex Community Rail Partnership – Uckfield & East Grinstead Lines  
Steering Group Meeting 16<sup>th</sup> June 2015**

The meeting was informed that the development of the SCRPs next 5 year business plan was a valuable exercise that was going well.

In brief, it details how the SCRPs plans to continue its work within the new franchise period (this commences on 26<sup>th</sup> July 2015) with a strong commitment and with basic funding in place for the next 5 – 7 years. However, in order to operate at the same levels of activity half of the funding is still required.

Gatwick and Kent County Council have been the first to put their first year grants in place and these are very welcome.

The Sussex CRP recently took part at the National CRP organised “Community Rail in the City” event at London Blackfriars station. Their stall was thought to be the best on show around all of the London terminal stations, and it was felt that considerable interest was generated that will hopefully lead to more people visiting Sussex by rail.

The SCRPs Line Action Plan has been updated and is being implemented.

Sharon Gray, the CRP development officer, is available if requested, to assist in transport aspects arising in the preparation of Council’s Local Neighbourhood Plan.

**Uckfield Railway Line Parishes Committee 10<sup>th</sup> July 2015**

Unfortunately, it was reported that the current service shows little change from the time of the May report. Only a slight improvement in the morning peak may have been achieved.

Southern and Network Rail were both represented at the meeting and presented the July update of their service Improvement Plan put together by Network Rail, Thameslink and Southern that commenced in March 2015.

So far, the Public Performance Measure for Southern services improved from 75.2% in January, to 86.5% in May, but dropped back slightly to 85.7% in June.

(Last week not only were there cancellations on four weekdays, the sole normally 8-car train in the evening peak was reduced to 4 carriages.)

Work on all the promised initiatives continues and was said to be on schedule: the one with the most immediate help to our line is probably the qualification of 58 new drivers by the end of this month from the start of the year. Some of the most recent train cancellations have been due to unavailability of staff.

The meeting was advised that the promised additional trains require technical upgrades, in addition to all the other work mentioned previously, in order to be compatible with the existing trains on the line, which embodied later changes in the build standard. As a result their entry into traffic will not be possible before 2016. This is very disappointing.

Network Rail gave the latest details of its local projects.

The new Uckfield station car park is nearly finished and, although further delayed, should be open in early August.

The revised design for the platform extension at Uckfield has been completed and this will not require the use of part of the nature reserve.

The enabling works for all the platform extensions, to enable the longer trains to run, will commence this month (at Hever) and the actual construction work will start at various dates from October. The last to be started will be in January. Completion is still planned for all stations by July 2016.

Southern will circulate information for residents and other interested parties very shortly.

Southern advised presentations/drop-ins about the plans will take place at some of the stations (Crowborough, Edenbridge Town and Uckfield).

The works that are going to be carried out are extensive, as previously advised, and the planned engineering line possessions will have a considerable affect on passengers as most off-peak services will not run on the line. The periods concerned are in November, and then for various dates during the first half of 2016.

In addition there will be a complete closure of the line between Crowborough and Uckfield early in the New Year, which will obviously affect peak-hour services as well. This closure is necessary to enable essential maintenance work to be carried out in Crowborough Tunnel in addition to the platform works at Buxted and Uckfield.

Replacement buses will be provided for the missing services and those serving Crowbough will run to and from Oxted calling at Edenbridge Town, Ashurst, Eridge, Crowborough, Buxted and Uckfield. Hever and Cowden will be served by a mini-bus from Edenbridge Town.

Network Rail and Southern have tried hard to ensure that these plans have the minimum affect on local residents and passengers. They have avoided the main holiday periods and reduced the number of days affected from their initial figure of 192 (one long closure) to 108 days.

It is certainly to be hoped that the gain will be worth the pain and that when the new works are completed, the new franchisee will recover the ground that has unfortunately been lost recently.

## **OTHER**

The Electrification RUS is still awaited. This should not be surprising however, since as is well known, some of the agreed future electrification schemes have been put back because too much has been spent, and too little achieved to date, with the current Great Western and North Western projects.

The Government, however, definitely seems to be pressing ahead with the new study into the viability of re-opening Lewes-Uckfield and we are told that this will include a proper re-assessment of the BML2 proposal.

I understand that the proposal to provide additional car parking spaces along and/or adjacent to Farningham Road has been investigated by Southern and Network Rail car park teams that have concluded that the scheme is not viable because of the costs involved in land stabilisation to support the new surface that would be required and the vehicles thereon. Network Rail is aware of the car parking issues at Crowborough and is quite willing to investigate any larger and flatter sites that may become available in the future.

J N Coleman 20<sup>th</sup> July 2015





## STRENGTHENING LOCAL RELATIONSHIPS

Minutes of the Crowborough Town Council / ESCC Liaison Meeting  
Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2015 at 2.00pm  
The Town Hall, Crowborough

Present:

Cllr Ron Reed, Chairman	Crowborough Town Council
David Foot	Operations Manager, Crowborough Town Council
Cllr Richard Stogdon	East Sussex County Council
Ian Johnson	Principal Traffic & Safety Engineer, ESCC
James Kelly	Highways Steward, North Wealden
Susan Barnard	Operations Administrator, Crowborough Town Council

### 1. Apologies

Cllr Sylvia Tidy, ESCC  
Cllr Sandra Timms, CTC  
Philippa Hewes, CTC  
Claire Warwick, Transport Development Control, ESCC

### 2. Minutes

Minutes of the meeting held on 1<sup>st</sup> September 2014 were approved.

### 3. Repainting of road markings to include:

- **Pedestrian crossing at Jarvis Brook** – James Kelly to investigate.
- **Yellow lines on Victoria Road** – these have been repainted at the junction with Crowborough Hill.
- **Junction markings Rotherfield Road/Western Road and Rotherfield Road/Sybron Way** – James Kelly has reported these.
- **Mini roundabout by White Hart** – James Kelly to investigate.

### 4. Parkers Yard, Western Road – damaged flood defence wall

James Kelly has raised a ticket for repairs to be carried out within the next few weeks.

### 5. Metal plate outside construction site, near 1 & 2 Laughton Cottages, Western Road and potential trip hazard

Removal of the metal plate is being looked into by the contractor. A ticket was raised for the repair of the collapsed gully beneath the plate. If the repair has been carried out, the plate will be removed by the contractor.

The pot holes in Western Road are due to be repaired.

## **6. Request for pedestrian crossings on A26 Beacon Road**

- **Report on capital funding for crossing near Church Road**

The proposed crossing near Church Road has qualified on points but is still waiting for a more detailed appraisal at the next level. This process may be speeded up if the Town Council can provide match funding, particularly if it is decided that the crossing would not otherwise be approved.

- **Request for a new crossing near Nevill Close, Nevill Court and The Rowans**

The Town Council has received a letter and petition requesting a new crossing on the A26 and bus shelters for stops in the vicinity. This matter was referred to ESCC and a response received by Michael Higgs, Senior Road Safety Officer, explaining that a crossing in this position does not score highly enough to be taken forward. The provision of bus shelters in this location has previously been examined by the Town Council and not taken forward. There is no budget for additional bus shelters in 2015-16.

## **7. Proposal from Western Road Residents' Association to modify the parking scheme for Western Road (Claire Warwick)**

A briefing note from Claire Warwick was delivered by Ian Johnson in her absence. Transport Development Control conducted a detailed study of Western Road and collected traffic and pedestrian data which were used by Rydon's to inform its traffic scheme for Western Road. This incorporates formalised parking bays and passing points to improve traffic flow and pedestrian safety.

An amended scheme has been put forward by residents and a productive meeting was held with them and Cllr Richard Stogdon to discuss it. The Western Road Residents Association (WRRRA) scheme involves a few amendments to Rydon's proposed parking bays, the removal of proposed off-peak parking across driveways and cul-de-sac entrances, and the creation of a car park on ESCC-owned land adjacent to the Hadlow Down Road junction. WRRRA is not in favour of the creation of parking bays opposite the schools in Hadlow Down Road or the proposed narrowing of the Hadlow Down Road junction due to the hazards that will result from HGVs and other large vehicles trying to negotiate the tighter corners. The car park will require a retaining wall at the rear and may require its own planning application. Ongoing maintenance will have to be funded by Rydon or CTC. Amendments to parking bays may be able to be incorporated into the Rydon scheme. Highways have not identified any cause for concern within the WRRRA scheme but reserve their opinion on retaining the Hadlow Down Road junction in its existing form. A new safety audit of the revised scheme would be required before Highways will give a formal opinion of the scheme as a whole.

Cllr Stogdon explained that, nine years ago, he had approached Highways (Colin Clark) with a view to narrowing the Hadlow Down junction due to pedestrian safety issues, but this was rejected due to other safety concerns. He is hoping to arrange a meeting with WDC to discuss planning issues. Susan Barnard, representing WRRRA, explained that the main reason quoted by Rydon for narrowing the junction was pedestrian safety. The design of the proposed car park, however, removes the need for pedestrians to cross at the junction by providing a pedestrian route around the rear of the car park onto the Hadlow Down Road; the requirement for narrowing the junction is therefore removed.

**8. Construction and Planned Maintenance –**

**Contact: Simon Marchant, Team Manager, tel: 0345 6080193**

In addition to the schedule below, the following issues were raised for the Highway Steward to consider:-

- Fermor Way – numerous small potholes, requires resurfacing.
- Church Road – road surface at the top of the green.
- Whitehill Road – two large sunken areas in the middle of the road near Whitehill Croft and near the Southview Road junction.
- Myrtle Road – poor surface and potholes.
- Croft Road, adjacent to M& S garage – attempts to resolve drainage issues have not worked; this area of road was flooded last week.
- Sheep Plain – potholes and drainage issues.
- Hurtis Hill – flooding and drainage issues.
- Harlequin Lane – flooding and drainage issues.
- Green Lane junction with Crowborough Hill – ‘no entry’ signage required.
- London Road, outside Fieldbuss Newsagents – parking and lining arrangements inadequate.
- Croft Road, outside Chappell's Chemist – railing on the step outside.
- Western Road – numerous blocked drains.
- Rotherfield Road, near St. Michael's Church – blocked drains.

Other updates:-

- Bollards outside the Post Office have not solved the pavement parking issues, although the situation has improved.
- CTC grounds staff have begun sign cleaning in Crowborough following Highways safety training. They also clean bus shelters.
- Flail work on the A26 between Crowborough and Eridge revealed considerable quantities of litter, which has now been cleared after Cllr Stogdon raised the problem.
- Cllr Stogdon reported that Arriva require 11 new or restored bus stops on the 228/229 route. Various stop sites marked on Google maps appear to have disappeared. There is sufficient S106 money for this work to be carried out before the end of March.
- Posts for electronic signs have been installed next to no. 29 bus stops in the town centre.

Road No	Location from - to	Type	Traffic Management	Start date	Duration	Finish date
U7503	Burnt Oak Road - approx 30m west of bridge & mid way between Tibbs Lane	C/W Patching	Road Closure	4/3/15	1 day	4/3/15
U7503	Burnt Oak Road - o/s The Old Barn	C/W Patching	Road Closure	4/3/15	1 day	4/3/15
B2100	Victoria Road - junc Crowborough Hill	C/W Patching	Road Closure	10/3/15	0.5 days	10/3/15

U7476	Barnfield - Chequers Way to Millbrook Road	F/W Slurry Seal Prep	Give and Take	11/5/15	7 days	19/5/15
	Hurtis Hill	Structures Work		11/5/15	29 days	19/6/15
U7489	Harlequin Lane - Hurtis Hill to C.O.S. at South View Road	Surface Dressing	Road Closure	12/5/15	0.33 days	12/5/15
C254	Sheep Plain - Harlequin Lane to Towards the A26	C/W Resurfacing		1/6/15	5 days	5/6/15
U7157	Fermor Way - Herne Road to Walshes Road	C/W Patching		4/1/16	3 days	6/1/16
U7476	Millbrook Road - Crowborough Hill to End	C/W Patching		15/6/15	2 days	16/6/15
U7476	Barnfield - Chequers Way to Millbrook Road	F/W Slurry Seal	Give and Take	16/6/15	6 days	23/6/15
U7476	Eridge Gardens - Eridge Road to Millbrook Road	C/W Patching		17/6/15	1 day	17/6/15
U7476	Eridge Gardens - Eridge Road to Millbrook Road	Micro Asphaltting	Road Closure	27/7/15	1 day	27/7/15
U7476	Millbrook Road - B2100 Crowborough Hill to COS at no 11 Hookwood Close	Micro Asphaltting		28/7/15	1 day	28/7/15
U7476	Barnfield - Millbrook Road to Chequers Way	Micro Asphaltting	Road Closure	29/7/15	0.33 days	29/7/15
U7476	Barnfield (16-28) - Barnfield to Double gully at Williams Way	Micro Asphaltting		29/7/15	0.33 days	29/7/15
U7476	Barnfield (culd de sac) - Barnfield to End	Micro Asphaltting		29/7/15	0.34 days	29/7/15
U7476	Chequers Way - Millbrook Road to End	F/W Slurry Seal		12/1/16	4 days	15/1/16
U7476	Chequers Way	F/W Slurry Seal Prep		18/1/16	5 days	22/1/16

**9. Any other business**

None.

**10. Date, time and venue of next meeting**

Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2015 at 2pm at Crowborough Town Hall.

## 1. Executive Summary

### Introduction

In East Sussex we manage 2,000 miles of rights of way (RoW) and 10 countryside sites at a cost of approximately £1.4m per year. We are developing a strategy for how we will manage RoW and countryside sites in the future. This consultation is a key part of the wide range of information we are gathering to understand the need for RoW and our countryside sites. Consultation with a wide range of stakeholders is an integral part of the strategy development process and we wanted to ensure that the whole community had an opportunity to take part.

### Objectives

The main objectives of the consultation included:

- Understand from all stakeholders how they are involved in RoW and our countryside sites to inform our understanding of what people need and want
- Identify opportunity for change, improvement and savings

We collected information in a number of ways: with the public via survey, with stakeholders via survey and with stakeholders in meetings. This report summarises the stakeholder surveys and meetings.

### Methodology

Information about the consultation was provided in number of ways to make it accessible to stakeholders and to take into account issues such as levels of comprehension or language. Two main methods were used to gather quantitative and qualitative data from stakeholders. This included an online survey and facilitated stakeholder events.

A wide range of stakeholders were invited to take part in the consultation, including those in the public sector, private sector, and voluntary and community organisations and associations. Respondents were able to tell us about their current and future involvement by completing a survey on behalf of their organisation or community group.

The facilitated meetings enabled stakeholders to tell us in person about their own group's needs and issues and to hear about the needs and issues of other groups. They also provided an opportunity for all parties to discuss thoughts and ideas for the future of RoW and countryside sites.

### Communication activities

Communication is a key success factor of any consultation and a wide range of methods and mediums were used to publicise and support the consultation.

### Responses

A total of 126 responses were received to the online survey and 65 stakeholders attended the events. A wide range of user groups, partners and landowners took part in the consultation, a list of those stakeholders that took part is included as Appendix 2.

## Survey findings

In the survey, we asked stakeholders to tell us how actively involved they were with the County Council's countryside sites and RoW. The findings show that:

- A fifth are actively involved with Seven Sisters Country Park (20% - 25 respondents)
- Just under a fifth with the Cuckoo Trail (17% - 21 respondents)
- Two thirds are actively involved in walking RoW (66% - 81 respondents)

Stakeholders were involved in a number of different ways with the top three activities being:

- Enjoyment of the countryside – 96 respondents
- Health and exercise – 71 respondents
- Monitoring and management – 63 respondents

Respondents also told us that the top three reasons that people needed to have access to the countryside were for health and exercise, personal enjoyment/interests and education.

When thinking about encouraging people to use RoW and countryside sites, respondents told us that the top three things that influence how people use them were the condition of the path/site, personal transport availability and parking.

The three most important aspects that respondents needed from the County Council were information on access, a named contact and an early notice of change.

72 respondents provided suggestions for how we could do things differently in the future. The top three themes were to make more or better use of volunteers and community groups, improve information and education and to explore funding and sponsorship ideas.

## Stakeholder events findings

Two topics were discussed at each of the facilitated sessions and covered what is currently provided and any changes that may be required in the future. Around 500 comments were recorded during these sessions, 280 about current provision and 243 about provision in the future.

When looking at what attendees thought the County Council should provide in relation to RoW and countryside sites, the findings show that the main issues relate to:

- The provision of information
- How accessible RoW and countryside sites are
- How the County Council manages RoW and countryside sites
- The relationship between stakeholders and the County Council

When looking at how attendees envisage they will be involved with RoW and our countryside sites in 5 years' time the findings show that:

- Changes may be needed to the current management framework
- Information needs to be effectively disseminated
- Improved coordination is needed between various partners
- There are a number of resourcing/funding opportunities that could be explored

We asked attendees to complete an evaluation form at the end of the meetings. A large majority (86%- 56 attendees) completed the evaluation forms and told us they felt the events were either excellent or good; they had had an opportunity to express their views and were either clear or very clear about the council's next steps.

### Summary

A number of common themes are apparent from the findings of these two consultation activities.

- Respondents to the survey were mainly involved in enjoying the countryside, health and exercise and monitoring and management of the countryside.
- A number of aspects influenced how and when people use RoW and countryside sites. This included issues such as location, the type of stiles and gates used, the way a path or site is signposted and its condition.
- The way RoW and countryside sites are currently managed and the important role that partnership working has in this process.
- Dissemination of information is a key factor in the use and management of RoW and countryside sites.

### Next Steps

This consultation is a key part of the wide range of information we are gathering to understand why people need RoW and our countryside sites. The information that has been gathered in this consultation will be used together with information from other sources to inform the development of the draft strategy

We will submit the draft strategy to Cabinet in early 2016, after which there will be a consultation. You can register your interest to get a reminder at [www.haveyoursay.gov.uk](http://www.haveyoursay.gov.uk).

## Rangers Update for The Environment Committee 28<sup>th</sup> July 2015

### Overview

This report covers key management activity in relation to The Country Park, The Ghyll and Bluebell Wood.

- 1.1. Significant work undertaken over this period to identify, record, manage and control invasive species (principally Himalayan Balsam and Japanese Knotweed) in all reserves (further detail regarding each reserve/area is provided later in this report).
- 1.2. Attended reception at House of Commons to meet Chief Executive of Woodland Trust and other partners in relation to the World War 1 Centenary Woodland Planting Scheme. As a result the National Association of Local Councils (NALC) has asked if they can run an article on the work that Crowborough is doing in relation to providing beautiful 'doorstep spaces/experiences' for its residents, whilst at the same time improving opportunities for wildlife biodiversity.
- 1.3. Work continues to identify, prioritise and manage encroachment/unpermitted ingress/ garden waste and residential fly tip issues.
- 1.4. Ongoing engagement with PCSO Marion Keeting regarding anti-social behaviour/drug abuse in The Ghyll and Country Park and motorcycle ingress in The Ghyll.

### 2. The Ghyll

- 2.1. Significant levels of sporadic Himalayan Balsam have appeared near to the stream along the Northern section of The Ghyll. This has required continuous weekly control to remove it before it can set seed.
- 2.2. Conservation grazing ponies have been booked for the Palesgate Lane meadows for a six week period which commences mid-August.
- 2.3. Ragwort - In order to prepare the meadows for the ponies it was critical that the Ragwort be removed. Crowborough Conservation members responded admirably to the call for volunteer help and a successful half day was spent with 6 volunteers at the beginning of July to remove this plant.
- 2.4. Ongoing monthly dormice surveys since March have resulted in at least one dormice box being inhabited on each visit (sometimes by several dormice) which is an encouraging positive indicator of the health of the reserve.
- 2.5. Further reminders sent to Wealden DC following its commitment to write to tenants on Bracken Close requiring that they remove their dumped garden waste from the reserve. WDC has also agreed to provide a fence for one of the properties in order to improve the entrance experience for users of the reserve.



2.6. Ongoing weekly clearance of rubbish/litter from the stream in areas adjacent to Burdett Road. Engagement with Sainsbury's is about to commence with a view to seeing if they can help to reduce the burden as most of the litter originates from the proximity of its store to the reserve.

2.7. Motorcycle ingress appears to have reduced significantly following the liaison with the PCSO and her ongoing engagement with the suspected offenders.

### **3. The Country Park**

3.1. As with The Ghyll there is a relatively significant amount of Himalayan Balsam along the stream edges which has required a continuous weekly effort to maintain control of this pernicious species.

3.2. Met with Barry Kemp to discuss pond management and to come up with a potential plan for improving and managing the habitat by surveying the top pond, then removing the goldfish and Rudd and then repeat surveying the following season. This is with a view to ensuring invasive flora and fauna are controlled; to improve aesthetic quality, and; make conditions more favourable for frogs and newts etc.

3.3. Commenced programme of cleaning of the benches to remove bird spoil and moss etc. In addition treating the wood to ensure that it lasts as long as possible.

3.4. Information boards are being measured for protective Perspex to reduce damage through vandalism.

3.5. Ditch edges continue to be managed to allow light and space for water reliant insects such as dragonflies/damselflies and mayflies etc.

3.6. The fallen Alder on Tollwood Road (Hilders Farm Close entrance) continues to be a problem as WDC has still not cleared the detritus. A further email with a map has been sent to WDC for their attention.

### **4. Bluebell Wood**

4.1. Removed squirrel damaged Sycamore from southern edge to remove risk to neighbouring apartments or public walking in the woods.

4.2. Dog waste bins cleaned and programme of bench cleaning due to commence in August.

4.3. Engaging with Manager of Mill Court Apartments regarding Japanese Knotweed which is encroaching from their gardens into the woods.

