

## 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 24<sup>th</sup> November 2015 at 7.30 pm when it is proposed to transact the following business:-

Town Clerk  
18<sup>th</sup> November 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 – 29<sup>th</sup> September 2015**
  - 3.2. **Matters Outstanding (including reports on updates)**
    - 3.2.1 **Crowborough Cross Traffic Signals Improvement Scheme**
4. **POLICE REPORT**
5. **RAILWAY REPORT**

*Report from John Coleman.*
6. **HIGHWAYS AND TRANSPORT**
  - 6.1 **North Wealden Community Transport Partnership Limited report August-September 2015**
  - 6.2 **Strengthening Local Relationships meeting 21<sup>st</sup> October**
  - 6.3 **East Sussex County Council Local Transport Plan – Draft Implementation Plan 2016/17 – 2020/21**
7. **ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES**
  - 7.1 **Winter planting**
  - 7.2 **East Sussex, South Downs and Brighton & Hove Waste and Minerals Sites**
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 30<sup>th</sup> September and 31<sup>st</sup> October 2015**

**9.2 To review projected spend to the end of the financial year and Reserves**

**9.3 To consider draft committee budget 2016/17**

**10. URGENT MATTERS AT THE DISCRETION OF THE CHAIRMAN FOR NOTING  
and/or INCLUSION ON A FUTURE AGENDA**

## **Report for Environment Committee meeting 24<sup>th</sup> November 2015**

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

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

A revised scheme has been implemented.

### **4. POLICE REPORT**

Sgt Keeler will report on Police matters.

### **5. RAIL REPORT**

Please see attached report from John Coleman.

### **6. HIGHWAYS AND TRANSPORT**

#### **6.1 North Wealden Community Transport Partnership Limited report August – September 2015**

Please see attached report.

#### **6.2 Strengthening Local Relationships meeting 21<sup>st</sup> October**

Please see attached Minutes

#### **6.3 East Sussex County Council Local Transport Plan – Draft Implementation Plan 2016/17 – 2020/21**

Please see attached information and questionnaire. The consultation runs until 18<sup>th</sup> December.

Information is available at:

<https://consultation.eastsussex.gov.uk/economy-transport-environment/local-transport-plan-implementation-plan-2016-17-2>

### **7. ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES**

#### **7.1 Winter planting**

The winter planting has commenced. The anniversary bed at Chapel Green has been planted to celebrate the centenary of the WI in the UK.

#### **7.2 East Sussex, South Downs and Brighton & Hove Waste and Minerals Sites**

Please see attached information on the consultation which runs until 23<sup>rd</sup> December.

Information is available at:

<http://consult.eastsussex.gov.uk/portal/wmsp>

### **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**

**24<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER 2015**

### **MEETINGS ATTENDED**

**Uckfield Railway Line Parishes Committee 11<sup>th</sup> November 2015**

Southern were represented at the meeting, and apologised for some poor service days.

Unfortunately, the previous day had provided a particularly bad day of services on the Southern network. This was caused by a combination of events which included 2 train failures north of East Croydon and severe delays to Uckfield and East Grinstead trains at Woldingham due to poor rail conditions (leaves, heavy rain, and strong winds). The Network Rail rail-treatment train was not available.

The first 4 week period of no off-peak services on the line has started and the bus replacement services are reported as working quite well, but the very much longer journey times may deter all but the most determined travellers.

It was reported that the platform lengthening works had commenced at Edenbridge Town and Cowden and that these were on schedule. There has been a slight delay to the start at Eridge and that at Crowborough has been rescheduled for the early New Year. The whole project is still to be completed by July next year.

The necessary work is now in progress to get the additional trains into traffic.

They will become 2 and 4 car units, as per the existing fleet, and should be available by March 2016.

Committee representatives reported the substance of their meeting, the previous day, with the consultants appointed by the Department for Transport (DfT) to study and report on the Brighton Main Line (BML) and the future of rail links between London and the South Coast, both existing and proposed. The latter include, of course, the reinstatement of Lewes – Uckfield and BML2.

The study is required to assess future demand for capacity and to examine the various proposals that have been made to provide it, with a view to forming the best strategic plan for the future in the short, medium and long terms. The study will assess the proposals for their feasibility, and the priorities that each should be given. It is also required to establish where potential conflicts, if any, may exist between schemes and priorities and how these should best be resolved. In addition it must be determined to what extent the proposals might receive private sector funding. The study is to take account of future housing and commercial development.

The Committee's view of the need for re-doubling, electrification, re-instatement, and BML2 were given, together with the obvious need for further increases in capacity on the Uckfield Line required by the high demands of future development and the need to stimulate economic growth by producing better links to the Brighton, the South Coast towns and Tunbridge Wells and Kent.

The efficiencies and cost savings that should accrue to Network Rail and the Train Operator by the re-opened southern link, which are normally ignored, were pointed out.

The Wealden Line Campaign's BML2 project team has also made a presentation of the proposal to the DfT's consultant's study team.

The study is seen by the DfT to be urgent and is to be completed by Christmas. Its conclusions will obviously be very significant one way or another for the future of our line.

## **OTHER**

It has been observed that in addition to the platform lengthening works some major infrastructure renewals are under way along the line. These include at least four of the bridges between Eridge and Hurst Green. Additional works were previously advised in general terms, but their extent and number is not really known to me, (apart from those at Crowborough Tunnel in January 2016) but may be quite considerable.

It is reported that in addition to the concerns about the challenging nature of the 2018 timetable there are now worries about the abilities of the various London stations and termini to provide the required capacity needs. If correct, then it would appear that there is an even stronger case to be made for BML2 which provides the south with additional station capacity in south-east and east London.

J N Coleman 16<sup>th</sup> November 2015