

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 25th March 2014 at 7.30 pm when it is proposed to transact the following business:-

Town Clerk
18th March 2014

ALL MEETINGS ARE OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

Questions from members of the public (15 minutes maximum)

1. APOLOGIES

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

3. MINUTES

3.1. Minutes – 28th January 2014

3.2. Matters Outstanding (including reports on updates)

3.2.1 Pedestrian crossing at Beacon Community College

Work is progressing on this scheme.

3.2.2 Planting at Clokes Corner (7023)

Flowering shrubs to be planted at the end of March. Work is progressing on the hanging basket trees.

3.2.3 Grazing at Palesgate Lane Meadow (7071)

A grant of £2000 has been awarded by the High Weald Joint Advisory Committee for fencing the meadow. Installation of the fencing commenced 10th March.

3.2.4 Bus shelter at Croft Road

The shelter has been ordered and installation is expected by the end of April

4. POLICE

4.1 To receive report from PCSO Chris Harrison and PCSO Ruth Parnell-Mace

4.2 To review CCTV in Crowborough

5. RAILWAY REPORT

Report from John Coleman.

6. HIGHWAYS AND TRANSPORT

6.1 Strengthening Local Relationships meeting 3rd March

6.1.1 To consider support for a petition to reduce the speed limit on the Beacon Road

6.2 To review East Sussex County Council's draft two year surfacing/maintenance programme for unclassified roads

7. ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES

7.1 Watering/maintenance of verge planting at the station

8. CROWBOROUGH'S NATURAL HABITATS

8.1 To renew the Management Agreement for the Bluebell Wood to 31.03.15

8.2 Report on Local Nature Reserve Agreement for Crowborough Ghyll

8.3 To review report of tasks completed against Management Plans

10. FINANCE

10.1 Management Accounts to 31st January and 28th February 2014

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

RAIL REPORT for the ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE MEETING 25th MARCH 2014

MEETINGS ATTENDED

Community Rail Partnership Stakeholders' Meeting 4th February 2014

The CRP continues its work to encourage greater off-peak and leisure use of the railway and its facilities by local groups and individuals, and has ongoing projects at most of the stations on our line. It is always ready to help to develop more projects with local people and organisations.

The new Thameslink Great Northern and Southern Franchise specifies the continuing support for the CRP by the selected train operator.

The new edition of the Uckfield & East Grinstead Lines Guide was published in the latter half of last year and is still available.

The newly planted trees along the station frontage on Farningham Road are mostly doing well after needing much watering last summer.

The new poster boards have not yet appeared.

The planned Art Show at Crowborough station has been delayed by difficulties with the hanging arrangements.

Sharon is working to find a source of additional planters for the station platforms.

A Spring Newsletter is to be published. (This is now available on-line).

Uckfield Railway Line Parishes Committee Meeting 13th March 2014

Southern did not attend the meeting.

It was agreed that the Parishes Committee should write and ask our MP to find out what has happened to the promised final report from Network Rail to the DfT on the usefulness or otherwise of the Lewes – Uckfield link. This was to take account of resultant improvements in the connectivity and economic activity in the region between London and the South Coast.

The Committee noted that it had not received a response from the Sussex Local Economic Partnership in regard to its request for its assistance in improvements and extensions to the Uckfield Line.

The Committee was advised that the plans for the Uckfield station car park would be presented to the Wealden District Council planning meeting in May. If approved, it should be possible to complete the car park by the end of September and the bus station by the end of this year.

Rail services have recovered from the recent trouble caused by the land-slide near Oxted, which caused the closure of the line for 2 weeks in February. However, unfortunately, the 6.30am from Uckfield failed there on Monday of last week.

The Office of the Rail Regulator has just published the annual figures for station usage and these show that Crowborough has increased by 1% and Eridge fell by 1.5% compared with the previous year.

The figures for the other large stations on the line were:-

Buxted +4%, Uckfield +21% whilst Edenbridge Town showed no significant change.

It was agreed that the Committee would discuss at its next meeting what list of priorities should be requested of the new franchised operator who will be selected in May this year.

OTHER

The end of this month should see publication of the agreed Network Rail work plan for Control Period 5 which runs from April 2014 to March 2019, which is expected to include platform lengthening at Crowborough.

Reports of the mock up of the long delayed new rolling stock for the Thameslink services are not very favourable for passengers - unless they don't mind standing. The vehicles are metro style, with airline (or bus) seating layout and the seats are small and hard.

J N Coleman

15th March 2014