

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 30th September 2014 at 7.30 pm when it is proposed to transact the following business:-

Town Clerk
24th September 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 – 29th July 2014

3.2. Matters Outstanding (including reports on updates)

3.2.1 Pedestrian crossing at Beacon Academy

The crossing was installed during the school summer break.

3.2.2 Lighting improvements at Jarvis Brook pedestrian crossing (7073)

The application for match funding was reviewed by the Cross Party Member Panel and recommended for approval. This will be considered by the Lead Member in November.

3.2.3 Trees at Clokes Corner (7235, 7236)

Advice is being sought from English Woodlands on the type of trees to be planted.

4. POLICE

4.1 To receive a report from PCSO Chris Harrison on Community Speed Watch

4.2 To receive a report from Sergeant Michael Keeler on staff changes

5. RAILWAY REPORT

Report from John Coleman.

6. HIGHWAYS AND TRANSPORT

6.1 Strengthening Local Relationships meeting 1st September

6.2 Request for a reduction in the speed limit on Beacon Road

This was considered by the Lead Member 15th September and further research is required.

6.3 Grit bin and fingerpost audit

7. ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES

7.1 To consider additional planting of shrubs at Clokes Corner

7.2 To consider planting for the anniversary flower bed for 2015

7.3 To confirm nursery supplier 2015

8. CROWBOROUGH'S NATURAL HABITATS

8.1 Report on visits to the Country Park, the Ghyll and land at Heatherview

8.2 To review report of tasks completed against Management Plans and other work

8.3 To consider installing a litter bin at the Ghyll car park in Burdett Road

8.4 Update on Local Nature Reserve Agreement for Crowborough Ghyll

9. FINANCE

9.1 Management Account Reports to 31st July and 31st August 2014

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

9.3 To consider draft committee budget 2014/15

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

**RAIL REPORT for the ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE MEETING
30th SEPTEMBER 2014
MEETINGS ATTENDED**

Uckfield Railway Line Parishes Committee 10th September 2014

Southern attended and provided a presentation covering its improvement training for conductors. Southern believe that conductors should be able and willing to assist passengers and enhance their journey experience. The company believes that progress is being made but more needs to be done so that all staff compare favourably with the best. I believe that the Committee agreed with that assessment and look forward to the target being achieved.

It was reported by members that recently the services had been “not too bad” and also that even some off-peak trains were full before Hurst Green.

The problems and inconvenience for passengers, caused by the termination of late running trains at Crowborough was discussed. Control, which is responsible for sorting these problems out, tries to remedy the situation in a manner which inconveniences the minimum number of people. If the delay to one train will lead to cumulative delays to several others then it may be decided to terminate the first train short. Although there is a small amount of slack in some parts of the timetable it is made more difficult to limit the effect of any delay to a train because of the single line sections that are present on the Uckfield line. Obviously, the best way to avoid the problem is to run to time.

The recent nine-day closure of London Bridge station to Southern and First Capital Connect trains (necessary as part of the Thameslink project) did not appear to cause any major problems and the services were restored on time as planned.

The Committee was expecting a response from Charles Hendry MP, regarding the conditions of the new TSGN franchise in respect of the provision of extra carriages/trains for the Uckfield line and what had been offered by the other bidders in respect of the line. (A response has now been received which attaches a reply from the DfT that refuses to provide any details stating that Commercial Confidentiality clauses in the agreement and the bid process prevents disclosure even under the Freedom of Information Act.)

Network Rail's Sussex Route Study which is due to be published this month is still awaited.

OTHER

Various reports seem to indicate that additional trains may, at last, become available in about 18 to 24 months time and that initial planning for longer platforms may be in hand.

J N Coleman
22nd September 2014