

## 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 at the Council Offices, Pine Grove, Crowborough on **Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> May 2021 at 7.30pm** when it is proposed to transact the following business:

Caroline Miles, Town Clerk  
19<sup>th</sup> May 2021

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MEETINGS OF THE COUNCIL 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 of the meeting of 27<sup>th</sup> April 2021

#### **4. REMOVAL OF PAYPHONE**

4.1 To note the report and agree further action

#### **5. STREET LIGHTING**

5.1 To **note** the street lighting update.

#### **6. RANGERS REPORT**

6.1 To **note** the new Rangers report.

#### **7. 20 IS PLENTY**

7.1 To **discuss** 20 is Plenty for Crowborough and **agree** further action

#### **8. FINANCIAL MATTERS**

8.1 To **note** the finance report and **agree** any action

#### **9 RAIL REPORT**

9.1 To **note** the Rail Report

**URGENT MATTERS AT THE DISCRETION OF THE CHAIRMAN FOR NOTING AND/OR INCLUSION ON A FUTURE AGENDA**



**AGENDA ITEM NUMBER:** 4.1  
**MEETING DATE:** 25<sup>th</sup> May 2021  
**COUNCIL/COMMITTEE:** Environment  
**TITLE:** Removal of Payphone  
**PURPOSE OF REPORT:** To inform the committee of the intended removal of public payphone  
**SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS:** None  
**OFFICER CONTACT:** Town Clerk

<b>OFFICER RECOMMENDATIONS:</b>	
<b>1</b>	
<b>2</b>	

Wealden District Council has received notification of the intended removal of a BT public payphone located at Croft Road, Crowborough.

The reasons for removal by BT are as follows:

From the information provided the public payphone located at Croft Road has a record of 1 call on average per month.

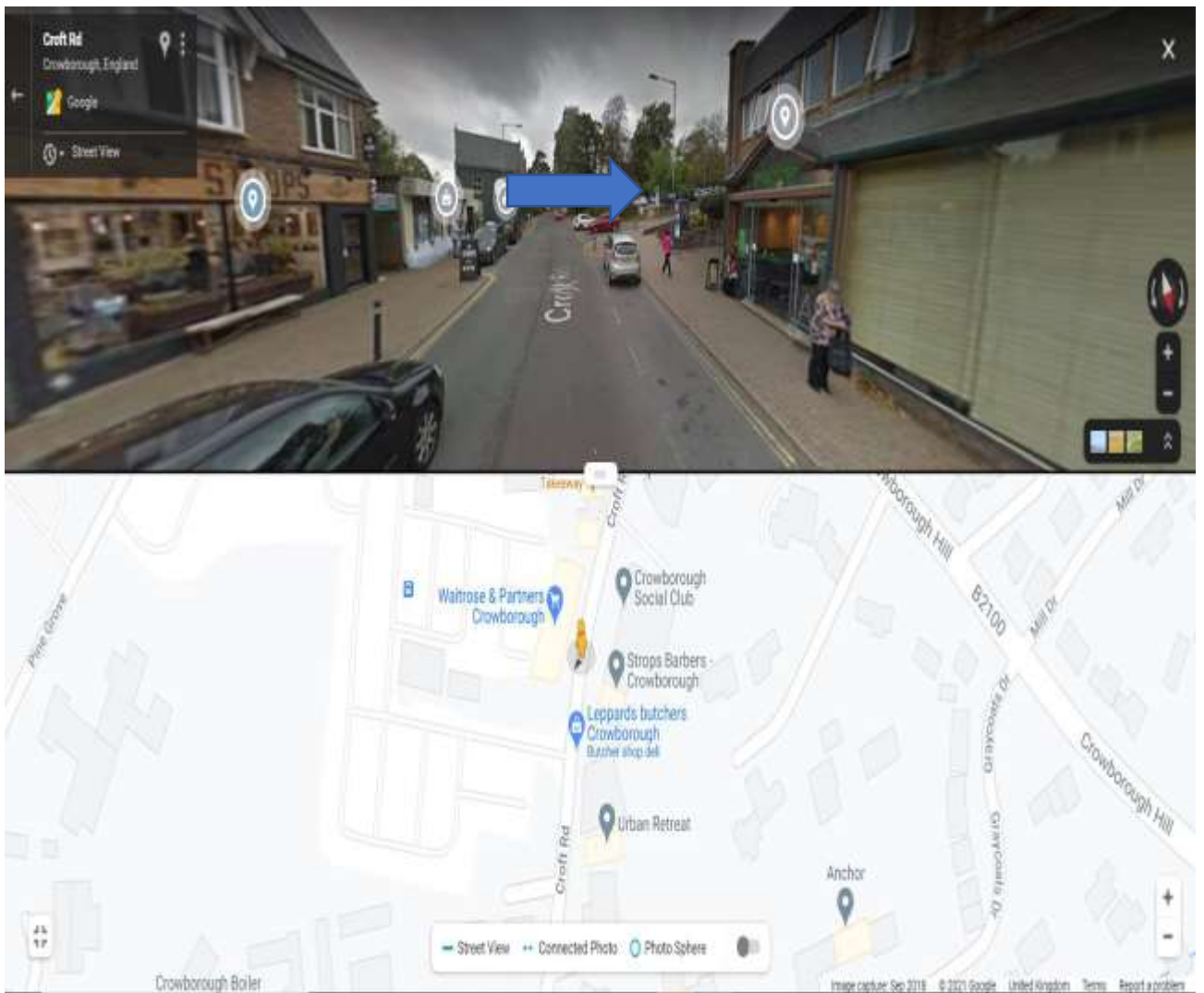
BT indicate that overall use of payphones has declined by over 90 per cent in the last decade and the need to provide payphones for use in emergency situations is diminishing with at least 98 per cent of the UK now having mobile call coverage. Provided there is mobile network coverage, it's possible to call the emergency services, even when there is no coverage from one's own mobile network provider.

**The committee is being asked whether it:**

- 1. Agrees to the removal.**
- 2. Objects to the removal.**
- 3. Wishes to nominate the payphone for adoption.**

If objecting the decision must be based on why the payphone service is still required. It is not appropriate to object to the removal of the public call box on the basis of it being a local landmark or on heritage grounds.

Location of BT payphone.





**AGENDA ITEM NUMBER:** 5.1  
**MEETING DATE:** 25<sup>th</sup> May 2021  
**COUNCIL/COMMITTEE:** Environment  
**TITLE:** Street Lighting  
**PURPOSE OF REPORT:** To inform members about ESCC improvement works  
**SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS:** None  
**OFFICER CONTACT:** Assistant Town Clerk

<b>OFFICER RECOMMENDATIONS:</b>	
<b>1</b>	
<b>2</b>	

In October 2020 East Sussex Highways began an eighteen-month project to improve street lighting, with the aim of reducing council energy bills and lowering carbon emissions. The work will focus on upgrading street light units to high efficiency LED lanterns and replacing some concrete columns; it will not involve replacing all streetlights in the listed roads.

Phase Two of this project is now underway and will take place on the following roads in Crowborough between May and October 2021:

Adam Close Alamein Close Alderbrook Close	Barnfield Batchelor Crescent Beacon Road Beaver Close Beeches Road Blackness Road Booker Close Bracken Close Bridger Way The Broadway Brooklands Avenue Bryants Field Burdett Road	Chequers Way Church Road Coller Mews Combe End Cornford Close Croft Road Crowborough Hill
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<p>East Beeches Road  Eridge Drive  Eridge Gardens  Eridge Road</p>	<p>The Farthings  Fermor Way  Figg Lane  Forest Dene  Forest Rise</p>	<p>Ghyll Road  Goldsmiths Avenue</p>
<p>Harecombe Rise  Heather Walk  Herne Down  Herne Road  High Street  Hilders Farm Close  Hill Close  Hillrise  Hookswood Close  Hurtis Hill</p>	<p>London Road  Luxford Road</p>	<p>Manor Way  Martins Gardens  Mill Lane  Millbrook Road  Montargis Way  Myrtle Road</p>
<p>Nassau Drive  New Road  North Beeches Road</p>	<p>Osbourne Road</p>	<p>Palesgate Lane  Payne Close  Pellings Farm Close  Pilmer Road  Pine Grove  Poundfield Road</p>
<p>Queens Road</p>	<p>Rochmans Way  Rotherfield Road</p>	<p>Sefton Close  Shawfield  Shepherds Walk  South View Road  Southridge Rise  Southridge Road  St Johns Road  St Michaels Close  St Richards Road  Stone Cross Road  Sybron Way</p>
<p>Tollwood Park</p>	<p>Victoria Road</p>	<p>Walshes Road  Watson Way  Welland Close  Williams Way  Willowmead  Windsor Place  Woodland Way</p>



**AGENDA ITEM NUMBER:** 6.1  
**MEETING DATE:** 25<sup>th</sup> May 2021  
**COUNCIL/COMMITTEE:** Environment  
**TITLE:** First New Ranger's Report  
**PURPOSE OF REPORT:** Update from Ranger on Spring 21  
**SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS:** none  
**CONTACT OFFICER:** Clive Lunny

<b>OFFICER RECOMMENDATIONS:</b>	
<b>1</b>	
<b>2</b>	

### General management key points

**DEVELOP ONLINE RECORDS:** A spreadsheet integrating the 5 year plans for all reserves has been created to enable the plans to be realised for 2021 onwards. Additionally, online records of locations of invasive species and unofficial paths have been researched and created to ensure clear records of management actions are being kept updated weekly.

**EXCHANGE OF EXPERTISE WITH UCKFIELD RANGER:** E.g. Veteran Tree Survey to be reciprocated in Crowborough area.

**ENGAGEMENT WITH VOLUNTEERS:** positive working relationships have been established with local experts who have a vested interest in monitoring reserves and now weekly work is being done with these individuals.

*Listed below are main actions carried out in reserves Spring 2021*

#### Country Park

**MAPPING & REMOVAL OF INVASIVE SPECIES:** Cherry Laurel and Rhododendron (other species will be targeted in the appropriate month) have been mapped in preparation for removal in the autumn/winter. Some Cherry Laurel was removed in order to trial an alternative regime. The ranger will be receiving training in herbicide use so that removal and treatment can be carried out in-house.

**PATH MANAGEMENT:** priority is to maintain a varied, soft edge to the woodland (increases biodiversity esp. butterflies) and avoid encroachment from bramble.

**MANAGING UNOFFICIAL PATH DEVELOPMENT:** mapping of unofficial paths has been completed and these will be restricted once tree felling season commences decreasing the level of disturbance to wildlife.

**TRAIL AUDITS INC. REMOVAL OF DAMAGED TREES:** fallen and dangerous trees have been removed.

**SURVEYING:** Butterfly transects: a butterfly transect has been set up and has been surveyed weekly by the ranger.

**RESIDENTS:** responding to residents requests regarding overhanging trees.

## The Ghyll

**MAPPING OF INVASIVE SPECIES:** as above for the Country Park.

**MANAGING UNOFFICIAL PATH DEVELOPMENT:** as above for the Country Park.

**TRAIL AUDITS:** regular trail audits here have highlighted track erosion in some areas. These have been highlighted as requiring action in the autumn/winter.

**SURVEYING MAPPING OF REPTILE REFUGIA, SURVEYING AND REMOVAL OF REFUGIA/ DORMOUSE MONITORING VIA FOOTPAD SURVEYS:** subsequent to a reptile survey the ranger will be removing refugia until relocation in early spring 2022. Dormouse footpad tunnels have purchased in order to survey for dormice. Footpad tunnels are a very low impact method of surveying which is permitted without a licence.

## Bluebell Wood

**TRAIL AUDITS:** weekly trail audits have highlighted that litter continues to be a problem in this area. Regular checking ensures any dangerous trees are detected and early action has been taken due to this being a high footfall location.

**TREE SAFETY:** trees identified as unsafe have been removed

## Pocket Park

**HABITAT MANAGEMENT:** minimal management activities have been carried out here due to the time of year. Some overdue scrub clearance has been undertaken, however initial observations indicate that the fact the habitat has been undisturbed for several seasons has resulted in the wildlife thriving; in particular the pond has become well established with spawn visible in the spring and the sediment undisturbed by dogs. Interestingly the ranger observed a lone roe deer in the Pocket Park despite this area being surrounded by housing!

**WILDLIFE MONITORING:** casual observations by the ranger with regular surveying by a volunteer documented.



**AGENDA ITEM NUMBER:** 8.1  
**MEETING DATE:** 25th May 2021  
**COUNCIL/COMMITTEE:** Environment Committee  
**TITLE:** Finance Report  
**PURPOSE OF REPORT:** This report covers C&E's current income and expenditure against budget and Earmarked Reserves (EMR) position. Only significant variances have been reported on.  
**SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS:** Appendix 1 – Income & Expenditure Report  
Appendix 2 - Earmarked Reserves  
**CONTACT OFFICER:** RFO

<b>OFFICER RECOMMENDATIONS:</b>	
<b>1</b>	The Committee is RECOMMENDED to: (1) <b>Note</b> the Committee's current income and expenditure position. Appendix 1. (2) <b>Note</b> this Committee's Earmarked Reserves. Appendix 2.

## **2. Income and Expenditure**

2.1 Attached as Appendix 1 is the Income & Expenditure report for this Committee to date. **Any recent significant variances are shown in bold**

### 2.2 Highway Facilities (801)

2.2.1 **4601 – Street Lighting (£9,386) An accrual brought forward from 20/21 for invoices not yet received although the repair and replacement work has been completed**

### 2.3 Environmental Projects (802)

2.3.1 **1101 – Grants Received (£8,000) Income brought forward from 20/21 for Dormouse mitigation at the County Park and The Ghyll**



**2.3.2 4962 – Pocket Park Nature Reserve (£1,824) An accrual brought forward from 20/21 for an invoice not yet received although the Tree Survey has been completed**

### **3. Earmarked Reserves**

3.1 This Committees EMR are attached as Appendix 2.

RFO

## Detailed Income &amp; Expenditure by Budget Heading 12/05/2021

Month No: 2

Committee Report

	Actual Last Year	Actual Year To Date	Current Annual Bud	Variance Annual Total	Committed Expenditure	Funds Available	% Spent	Transfer to/from EMR
<b>Environment</b>								
<u>801 Highway Facilities</u>								
1103 Income-insurance	975	0	0	0			0.0%	
Highway Facilities :- Income	<b>975</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>				<b>0</b>
4115 Street Furniture Maintenance	996	0	2,000	2,000		2,000	0.0%	
4601 Street Lighting	35,042	(9,386)	45,000	54,386		54,386	(20.9%)	
4602 Litter Bins	1,075	0	1,100	1,100		1,100	0.0%	
4603 Seats	170	0	2,000	2,000		2,000	0.0%	
4604 Bus Shelters	1,873	0	2,000	2,000		2,000	0.0%	
4607 Dog Litter Collection	7,250	0	7,725	7,725		7,725	0.0%	
4651 Planting	5,855	0	10,500	10,500		10,500	0.0%	
4652 CCTV	8,866	0	8,450	8,450		8,450	0.0%	
4654 Environmental Improvements	7,447	0	5,000	5,000		5,000	0.0%	
4659 Community Warden	20	0	0	0		0	0.0%	
4661 NWCT/Dial-a-ride	3,504	876	3,850	2,974		2,974	22.8%	
Highway Facilities :- Indirect Expenditure	<b>72,098</b>	<b>(8,510)</b>	<b>87,625</b>	<b>96,135</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>96,135</b>	<b>(9.7%)</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Net Income over Expenditure</b>	<b>(71,124)</b>	<b>8,510</b>	<b>(87,625)</b>	<b>(96,135)</b>				
6001 plus Transfer from EMR	(907)	0						
<b>Movement to/(from) Gen Reserve</b>	<b>(72,030)</b>	<b>8,510</b>						
<u>802 Environmental Projects</u>								
1101 Income-Grants Received	0	8,000	0	(8,000)			0.0%	
Environmental Projects :- Income	<b>0</b>	<b>8,000</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>(8,000)</b>				<b>0</b>
4116 Tree Works	6,343	390	10,300	9,910		9,910	3.8%	
4255 Equipment	769	0	1,500	1,500		1,500	0.0%	
4402 The Ghyll	5,097	73	4,635	4,562		4,562	1.6%	
4475 Country Park	2,800	90	4,120	4,030		4,030	2.2%	
4656 Bluebell Wood	850	73	1,030	957		957	7.1%	
4962 Pocket Park Nature Reserve	1,898	(1,824)	2,575	4,399		4,399	(70.8%)	
Environmental Projects :- Indirect Expenditure	<b>17,757</b>	<b>(1,198)</b>	<b>24,160</b>	<b>25,358</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>25,358</b>	<b>(5.0%)</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Net Income over Expenditure</b>	<b>(17,757)</b>	<b>9,198</b>	<b>(24,160)</b>	<b>(33,358)</b>				
6001 plus Transfer from EMR	(3,650)	0						
<b>Movement to/(from) Gen Reserve</b>	<b>(21,407)</b>	<b>9,198</b>						

## Detailed Income &amp; Expenditure by Budget Heading 12/05/2021

Month No: 2

Committee Report

	Actual Last Year	Actual Year To Date	Current Annual Bud	Variance Annual Total	Committed Expenditure	Funds Available	% Spent	Transfer to/from EMR
<b>903 Earmarked Environment</b>								
9034 Litter Bins	600	0	0	0		0	0.0%	
9035 Seats	600	0	0	0		0	0.0%	
Earmarked Environment :- Indirect Expenditure	<b>1,200</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>		<b>0</b>
<b>Net Expenditure</b>	<b>(1,200)</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>				
6001 plus Transfer from EMR	1,200	0						
<b>Movement to/(from) Gen Reserve</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>						
Environment :- Income	<b>975</b>	<b>8,000</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>(8,000)</b>			<b>0.0%</b>	
Expenditure	<b>91,055</b>	<b>(9,708)</b>	<b>111,785</b>	<b>121,493</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>121,493</b>	<b>(8.7%)</b>	
<b>Net Income over Expenditure</b>	<b>(90,081)</b>	<b>17,708</b>	<b>(111,785)</b>	<b>(129,493)</b>				
plus Transfer from EMR	<b>(3,357)</b>	<b>0</b>						
<b>Movement to/(from) Gen Reserve</b>	<b>(93,437)</b>	<b>17,708</b>						
Grand Totals:- Income	<b>975</b>	<b>8,000</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>(8,000)</b>			<b>0.0%</b>	
Expenditure	<b>91,055</b>	<b>(9,708)</b>	<b>111,785</b>	<b>121,493</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>121,493</b>	<b>(8.7%)</b>	
<b>Net Income over Expenditure</b>	<b>(90,081)</b>	<b>17,708</b>	<b>(111,785)</b>	<b>(129,493)</b>				
plus Transfer from EMR	<b>(3,357)</b>	<b>0</b>						
<b>Movement to/(from) Gen Reserve</b>	<b>(93,437)</b>	<b>17,708</b>						

<u>Nominal Code</u>	<u>Cost Centre</u>	<u>Earmarked Reserves</u>	<u>Opening Balance</u>	<u>In</u>	<u>Out</u>	<u>Balance as at</u>	<u>Committed</u>	<u>Projected</u>
			<u>01/04/2021</u>			<u>12/05/2021</u>		
<b>316</b>		<b><u>Environment</u></b>						
9016	903	Natural Habitat	16,076			<b>16,076</b>		16,076
9058	903	Future Environmental Projects	13,400			<b>13,400</b>	5,000	8,400
9070	903	Community Support Staff	6,333			<b>6,333</b>	6,333	0
9034/5	903	Litter Bins and Seats	3,255			<b>3,255</b>		3,255
9019	903	Bluebell wood	600			<b>600</b>		600
9014	903	The Ghyll	150			<b>150</b>		150
9021	903	Tree Works	6,900			<b>6,900</b>		6,900
9024	903	Country Park	1,100			<b>1,100</b>		1,100
9020	903	Planting	4,000			<b>4,000</b>		4,000
<b>316</b>		<b>Environment Total</b>	<b>51,814</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>51,814</b>	<b>11,333</b>	<b>40,481</b>

# **RAIL REPORT TO THE ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE**

## **MEETING 25<sup>th</sup> MAY 2021**

### **MEETINGS ATTENDED**

Uckfield Railway Line Parishes Committee (Zoom) meeting on 13<sup>th</sup> May 2021

Southeast Communities Rail Partnership - Uckfield and East Grinstead Lines Steering Group (Teams) meeting on 12<sup>th</sup> May 2021

### **Current Services**

The services remain generally good but the trains are still very short of passengers.

From today, the 17<sup>th</sup> May, the summer timetable change is operating and the hourly service in the middle part of the day is restored as previously promised.

### **Passenger Benefits Fund**

At Crowborough station, this programme has now provided the additional seats and they look good.

The updated toilet, meeting DDA requirements, and with a baby change table are planned to be completed within the next four weeks.

The additional shelter for the Down platform has been delayed until late June when it will be installed opposite the main station entrance so that it can easily be seen: to deter it from suffering from anti-social behaviour. This shelter will hopefully be welcome, particularly at times when the station is unstaffed and the waiting rooms are locked up.

### **Access for All Programme**

The new footbridge and lifts at Crowborough together with various ramps and probably handrails are still scheduled for completion in December.

The major work continues with the maintenance of the Oxted viaduct.

### **Future Prospects**

It was reported that it is possible that a community use may have been found for the vacant part of the Crowborough station building, but no details were given.

No result has been announced for the BML2 proposals for Round 3 of the Department for Transport's Restoring Your Railway programme which were submitted to the DfT on 5<sup>th</sup> March.

Nothing further has been heard from Transport for the South East's South Orbital Study Forum: this is possibly due to delays caused by the recent local elections.

## **OTHER**

Exactly as in my last report, the long-awaited and many times promised Williams Report (or Government White Paper) has failed to appear, and the electrification and rolling stock replacement plans for our line have also not been revealed.

However, tomorrow there is a Network Rail Southern Region stakeholder conference at which some information may be forthcoming on any, or none, of these matters in our area.

John Coleman 17<sup>th</sup> May 2021