

Notes of Zoom Meeting between Kingston Parish Council and South Downs National Park Authority 21 October 2020

Ref: KPC Meeting 11 November 2020 Appendix 8

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Attendance: KPC: Fiona Harrison, John Bewick, Christine Moulder
SDNPA: Chris Paterson (Communities Lead), Alex Pringle (Transport Planning Officer)

Main points of discussion:

1. **Communities in the South Downs** is a year long project with the aim of identifying a series of interventions that meet both the requirements of Highways departments and SDNPA policy to provide practical solutions to traffic problems. They hope to provide a catalogue of costed products that can be used by Parish Councils working with Highways to resolve local issues. They will be working closely with Highways Departments and hope to form good relationships with them that parishes can build on. Three pilot parishes have been identified, Upham in Hampshire, Jevington in East Sussex and Fittleworth in West Sussex, chosen to reflect different classification of roads and different landscapes. SDNPA is aware that there are traffic issues in many East Sussex villages e.g. Alfriston and Alciston and of the issues on the C7 and of POLO. They are hoping to appoint a consultant in November with the project starting in earnest in January 2021. Learning will be disseminated throughout the project.

2. **CIL funding** is available for infrastructure projects which must also contribute to meeting the requirements of the SDNPA management plan. The bids for 2020 CIL funding were recently decided (see minutes of the SDNPA planning committee 8 October 2020) and included a couple of highway improvement projects (Stroud and Farringdon). An invitation for CIL funding 2021 has recently been made, deadline for submissions 31 January 2021. Successful applicants usually have done a lot of background work.

3. **KPC** could submit a bid for CIL 2021 but we could make a stronger bid in October 2021 (for money in 2022) as we would be in a position to learn from the 'Communities in the South Downs' project, include evidence from the Kingston Conservation area re-appraisal and have had time to clearly identify the issues, potential solutions and sources of funding. Note: the Safer Roads Trust funds schemes and will be launching a programme similar to the one this year in August/ September 2021.

4. **Support for KPC to develop a proposal** Initially it may be helpful to approach ESCC Highways Dept but we can also contact consultants (e.g. Costains) directly. Jevington PC had contracted Hamilton Bailey to do a lot of preparatory work before their inclusion in the Communities in the South Downs project.

5. **Walking and cycling** Safety concerns about access to the South Downs Way, particularly at the 324 / Kingstonridge junction can be taken up with Andy Gattiker who is the lead on the South Downs way at SDNPA. He is based at the SDNPA Stanmer Office.

Andy can work with the Southdowns comms dept on signage. We could also follow up the issues with ESCC rights of Way Team. ESCC have produced a *Local cycling and walking infrastructure plan* see PDF 'Get cycling and walking' (contact Lisa Simmons at ESCC).

Points of action for KPC to consider

1. **Gather background information from successful traffic projects**
 - Jevington PC part of Communities in south Downs project (CP advised us to contact Jevington PC)
 - Stroud PC (Successful CIL bid for 'Village improvement scheme')
 - Farringdon PC (Successful CIL bid for 'Village improvement scheme')
2. Read 'Roads in the South Downs' SDNPA
3. Research 'Safer Roads Trust' including criteria and timetable for bids

4. Follow up Conservation Area Re-appraisal to clarify traffic issues that it is likely to identify
5. Discuss and agree action KPC can take and how to go about it including how best to develop a plan, consultancy, timing and funding.
6. Follow up access to South Downs way issues with South Downs Way Officer Andy Gattiker (SDNPA).
7. Follow up cycling issues with Lisa Simonds ESCC.

CM October 2020