

Report on POLO meeting (Zoom) 29th January 2024

attended by John Bewick

Minutes of the meeting are with the Clerk for uploading to the website.

Briefly, the meeting received updates on Road Matters from the Safer C7 group, Lewes Movement Strategy Project and the Kingston Project. Work on all of the projects had started during the previous weeks and were under way. No progress reports were available at this time. Piddinghoe reported it had commissioned a feasibility from ESCC into improving safety along that section of the C7 but due to the lack of KSI's (Killed or Seriously Injured!) no extension of the 40mph would be considered by ESCC.

Egrets Way: work on Phase 6 of this project (Rodmell to Ham Lane) had stopped for the winter. The possibility of widening the C7 along the section to the north of Piddinghoe was being explored with the support of SDNPA.

Lewes DC Local Plan Consultation: Concern was expressed about the detrimental effect the proposed significant increase in housing along the south coast would have on the road network, particularly the C7, and the villages in the Ouse Valley.

ESC Local Transport Plan 4 2024-2050): Concern was expressed at the lack of ambition or imagination contained in the draft plan and the fact that consultation was targeted on town and district councils and did not formally include parish councils. Of note, there are no plans to widen the criteria for reducing speed limits or for prioritising roads for safety improvements from the existing criterion of the number of people killed or seriously injured (KSIs) within a narrow 50 m radius of a specific site. There are no plans to apply the national Dept of Transport 2013 guidelines which include factors such as the geography (e.g. narrow width, winding) and location (e.g. in a national park) of a road, or the range of road users, such as pedestrians, cyclists, and walkers. Both Cycle Lewes and the Safer C7 group will be submitting comments for consideration.