While the EHT Committee meeting for the 7 December 2017 was unfortunately cancelled due to Councillor unavailability the following represents a summary report for the Full Council on the present state of some of the principle current items under review. The names of the lead Councillors in the Committee responsible for following the items have been noted below in brackets

**Substantive Items**

**1. High Street Pedestrian Improvements** (Cllr Dunnett)

Cllr Dunnett had a good discussion with Chris Tree on 6 December who kindly provided him with the following verbal update for the High Street Pedestrian Improvements (HSPIs) to feed back to WPC. This is *not* a formal feedback of the status quo which will be provided when WPC and ESCC can meet together in early January.

* The feedback from WPC provided in July’s meeting has been taken up and reviewed by the third party design consultants - *Chris does not know yet what they will be suggesting*.  There were three key issues to be taken forward/re-designed as raised by WPC:
	+ A loading area between Crittles and the (now closed) Lloyds Bank - no through traffic – Cllr Dunnett has spoken to local store keepers (as promised) who are supportive as proposed;
	+ A raised carriageway opposite the Old Post Office to allow invalid scooters and those with walkers to cross on the level (pavement-to-pavement) and provide traffic calming to reduce the speed of the hot rod racers in the evenings; and
	+ Removing the stepped out pavement to include a dedicated bus stop outside Carillon Cottage/Old Post Office to return the road to full width.
* The road re-surfacing has, as we are aware, been deferred (from November 2017); we discussed deferring this until after the High Street pedestrian improvements have been completed - so as (i) to reduce seeming nugatory expenditure and (ii) recognise that resurfacing before implementing the HSPIs is not ‘politically’ sensible, and (iii) there does not appear a ground swell of local opinion clamouring for resurfacing.
* The next steps appear to be:
	+ Meeting WPC & ESCC early January to hear proposals from consultants and ‘hopefully’ agree/sign off;
	+ Consultations with local businesses and statutory bodies - given the time since the last consultation and consider any significant comments as appropriate.
	+ Inform/update Wadhurst residents as to the proposed way forward.
	+ Advertise the Traffic Regulation Orders (TROs) associated with the changes to the layout of the high street.
	+ Unresolved objections to the proposed TROs to be reported to and considered by ESCC Planning Committee (PC); and
	+ Subject to outcome of PC meeting and any recommended changes, the 3 month lead in time for mobilisation of contractor can begin. No preparatory works can be undertaken before the outcome of the PC as this would pre-empt the PC decision.

* The timetable is now really tight if the various procedures are going to be completed and contractors scheduled in to get this done in the summer holidays of 2018. Cllr Dunnett noted that despite contractors and project management teams not wanting to work in holiday periods - there was no option given the gridlock that takes place in term time. Given the likelihood of objections to the proposed TROs and time required to try and resolve and report these to PC, this will be a potential risk to the already tight construction timetable. The works are anticipated to last for at least 8 weeks and therefore the school summer holiday period is the only practicable time carry out the majority of the construction works to avoid the term time.

**Recommendation: that the Council take note of the latest developments**

**Station feasibility safety review** (Cllr Murphy)

ESCC have advised that any project could only be taken forward as part of a Community Match Scheme. If the Parish Council considers pedestrian improvements in the vicinity of the station as a high priority to support and take forward as a community led project, ESCC would strongly advise that for all but the simplest of schemes, you consider commissioning a feasibility study. This will allow basic design work to be completed to determine firstly if the scheme is feasible and if so, what it may look like and what the likely costs and risk will be. A feasibility study would cost in the region of £500, and will include a site visit and meeting with the community group by an engineer who will assess the merits and feasibility of the scheme based on current traffic flows, highway boundaries, safety implications and logistics of request, as well as giving an indicative cost for the design and construction of the project.

**Recommendation to Council: that a budget of £500 be agreed to enable a feasibility study to be undertaken**

**SLR** (Clerk)

The following items were also discussed at the SLR with ESCC on 15 November and the Clerk has received a response from ESCC on the issues raised:

* **Overhanging Trees & Street Lights on Station Road -** *After an inspection, Dom is satisfied that the streetlights on Station Road are providing sufficient light and does not consider the tress to be preventing the streetlights from illuminating the highway.*
* **Blocked Drain at the junction of Station Road and B2100** *- is due for its routine maintenance in January 2018, but ESCC will monitor it in the meantime. Should this require urgent attention, he will arrange for the necessary works to be carried out.*
* **Street lighting 1324** *–* ESCC will contact Clerk directly with an update regarding the streetlight at Queens Cottage, and its removal.
* **Earl’s Farm** - *Having inspected the ditch opposite the entrance to the farm, ESCC has arranged for works to be carried out to clear the outlet at the end of the ditch, to allow it to flow correctly.*
* **Considerate Parking** *-* It was agreed that this matter should be discussed at Full Council and then at the next SLR
* **Verges in Cousley Wood -** *It was agreed that there is nothing that can be done regarding parking on the verges.*
* **Jonas Lane** - *ESCC advised that they felt that there was nothing that could be done regarding traffic calming due to the nature of the road and the parked cars. WPC Cllrs agreed that there was nothing further could be done.*

**Adopted Triangles** (Cllr Murphy)

* *It was agreed at SLR that County would look into the position regarding adopting the triangles. Cllr Murphy has been in touch with local residents who have specifically asked that WPC consider installing curb stones on two triangles that would like to be ‘adopted’ by residents.*

**Progress Reports**

**Extension of 40 MPH zone on B2100** (Cllr Dunnett)

K M Traffic surveys have been instructed to carry out the speed survey in the area of intense housing development at a cost of £300 + VAT. Cllr Dunnett has identified a conflict of interest since he lives and has a property that accesses this road along the stretch to be tested.

**Dog Bins** (Cllr Moore)

The Clerk is completing negotiations with County regarding the licenses.

**Heritage Bins** (Cllr Moore)

**Litter picking contract** (Cllr Dunnett)

Advertisement has been drafted for the contract and it is to be widely advertised over Christmas and the start of the new year.

**Wealdlink** (Cllr Wynne)

Report attached.

**Street Name** - (Cllr Dunnett)

We have been in touch with Jackie Martell who has discussed this with her father. They would be honoured to have the road named after Rosemary Martell. The Clerk has responded to the request asking that the road be named *Rosemary Martell Way*on the basis that the Parish Council wants to recognise the name of specific individuals who have made a significant contribution to the village in living memory.  If we get a push back and are asked to shorten the name then just the surname should be identified i.e. Martell Way/Close (there are many Rosemarys in the village and using just the forename might be confused with the herb)

**GPS Database** - (Cllr Dunnett).

Discussions have been initiated with Wealden and ESCC. Both agree that common use of data should be encouraged. Further investigations will be undertaken on the nature and amount of information to be gathered.

**Dark Skies** (Cllr Moore)

To be discussed at next EHT

**Tree Warden** (Cllr Bullock)

Ian Noel has been appointed and invited to attend the next meeting.

**Considerate Parking Update** (Cllr Meredeen)

To be discussed at next EHT

**EHT Allocation of Responsibilities**

**Environment**

Murphy Biodiversity, green triangles

Bullock Redevelopments + trees

Moore Dark skies (+Malcolm)

Dunnett SLR, snow plan & grit bins; High Street maintenance & litter picking

**Highways**

Meredeen Traffic, parking & speed watch

Moore Finger posts; & waste bins

Wynne Potholes & maintenance

Bullock Environment of highways

Dunnett           SLR, pedestrian crossings/school signs; speed plans

Murphy Station crossing

**Transport & Lighting**

Dunnett SLR, bus stops

Wynne Street lights, community transport