

Tel: (01444) 247726
Fax: (01444) 233707
Email: council@burgesshill.gov.uk
Website: <http://www.burgesshill.gov.uk>



17 February 2022

To: **MEMBERS OF THE CUSTOMER SERVICES KEY AREA GROUP,
BURGESS HILL TOWN COUNCIL**

Robert Duggan, Joe Foster, Lee Gibbs, Kathleen Willis, Graham Allen,

A **MEETING** of the **CUSTOMER SERVICES KEY AREA GROUP** will be held in the Council Chamber, 96 Church Walk, Burgess Hill, RH15 9AS on **24 February 2022** at **19:00** hours, when your attendance is required.

Steve Cridland
Chief Executive Officer

****PLEASE NOTE THE START TIME OF THE MEETING****

Filming, recording of Council meetings and use of social media:

During this meeting members of the public may film or record the Committee and officers from the public area only providing it does not disrupt the meeting. The Confidential section of the meeting may not be filmed or recorded.

If a member of the public objects to being recorded, the person(s) filming must stop doing so until that member of the public has finished speaking.

The use of social media is permitted but members of the public are requested to switch their mobile devices to silent for the duration of the meeting.

A G E N D A

1. OPEN FORUM

Members of the public are invited to put questions or to draw relevant matters to the Council's attention. Each member of the public is allowed to speak once only in respect of a business item on the agenda (in the Open Forum) and shall not speak for more than three minutes at the discretion of the Chairman.

If it appears that the number of speakers is likely to unreasonably delay the disposal of business items on the agenda the Chairman may direct that a member of the public submits a question or comment in writing which shall be

answered in due course.

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

3. SUBSTITUTES

4. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

In respect of any matter on the agenda.

5. NOTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

To consider the Notes of the Meeting of the Customer Services Key Area Group held on 18 August 2021 (previously distributed).

6. RE-WILDING

At a meeting of the Re-wilding sub committee, it was agreed that 8 of last year's 9 sites be continued for the coming year. The St Wilfrids Road site was not successful and has recently had a tree planted as an alternative.

The verge at the junction with Mill Road and Middle Way was felt not to be as successful as some of the others and it was agreed the turf would be stripped this year and fresh seed put down. An insect hotel/house for this location could also be considered.

Requests have been received from residents to add new verges to the project however only 1, located in Priory Road, has been confirmed as West Sussex County Council land and this will be progressed subject to a local consultation.

Re-wilding areas will also be created in the Burial Ground.

Due to the increase in staffing of the Mobile Maintenance Team it has been agreed on a trial for this year that the grass cutting be undertaken inhouse on a monthly basis. This will be cut and collect until the last cut in September/October where the grass will be cut and left and volunteers will be needed for the raking and clearing.

A suggestion has been made that volunteers details should be logged along with how many hours they contribute. Volunteers could assist with recording flowers and pollinators within the verges.

The group would like to see Crocus and Wood Anemone planted after the final cut this year to create continued interest in the verges.

Following this meeting the following email was received from the chairman which contradicts what was resolved at the group meeting. It should be noted that complaints were received by the ward councillor regarding the condition of the Mill Road site.

"This area was discussed at the verges meeting with Sarah Hughes on 11 February, so I offered to meet with nearby resident xxx and Cllr Anne Eves, to discuss what Ann and other neighbours have been doing there. Ann has kindly put her thoughts into an email and asked me to share them with you, as

below. I believe she has a clear idea of how an urban wildlife area can be created with minimal intervention. She does not believe that turf stripping and planting will enhance this particular area and could actually reduce its potential to become a biodiverse haven.

The following points came out of my meeting with Ann which could affect the maintenance plans being drawn up by Sarah in regard to mowing etc:

1. Compared to other sites we have considered, what might have been described as its neglect in the past has allowed it to become quite diverse already;
2. This area does not need to be mowed in the Spring, but should be left until August or later, and only when seeds have set;
3. A narrow margin (say 0.5m) could be mowed around the edge, along with signs to show that the site is being actively managed;
4. It is best not to use the mowing machines to collect arisings, but to rake these up later, and keep them on site to compost under the trees. Manual raking will result in more seeds and pollinators to fall to the ground. Volunteers in this neighbourhood are willing to do help with this.

(Actually, points 2 & 3 could apply to other sites to permit increased biodiversity. 4 would too if we could rely on volunteers in each area, but I think not yet.)

For consideration.

7. STREET LIGHT ASHWAY

There has been a street light at Ashway (private road) for some time now, however it needs repairing and upgrading. There are various lights around the town that the Town Council has taken on and entered into an agreement with WSCC to maintain. WSCC will not maintain this light unless the upgrade is done. To install a PFI standard light will cost £804,27 and a further £41.13 per annum to maintain. It is suggested that the Town Council replace the light and add it to its inventory of similar street lights around town.

RECOMMENDED:

That the street light in Ashway be replaced with a PFI compliant light at a cost of £804,27 and that the council pay the annual maintenance bill currently £41,13pa.

8. SIGN POST: CHURCH WALK AND CHURCH ROAD

A request has been received from a trader in Cyprus Road for a sign post to be erected near the traffic lights at Church Walk and Church Road to signpost the businesses along Cyprus Road. The sign post will benefit the following businesses:

- Mercantile adventurers
- Bicycle shop
- Jeweller
- Odeon cinema
- Cyprus hall
- The sign could be adapted in time to show The Beehive.

Part of the Place and Connectivity programme was to instal signage throughout the town; however, this has stalled for the time being. A suggestion has been made by a councillor that the Town Council take on this project. Previously the CEO investigated a similar project in Eastbourne. The cost of the project is dependant on how far the council wants to go but will be significant. Council is asked to provide direction in this regard as it would involve a tendering process for designers and installation. The draft tender document designed for the wayfinding element of the Place and connectivity project is attached to provide an indication of the size of the project.

There are sufficient funds available in the Bridge the Gap fund to erect one signpost.

For consideration.