

ACTION AND PROJECT PROGRESS LIST

Full - Item 7

Blue - completed or moved on and will be deleted after next meeting of relevant committee. Green = update. Grey background = confidential items. Violet = long term action. Red - priority

COUNCIL / COMMITTEE	MINUTE REF	MEETING DATE	SUBJECT	ACTION AGREED	WHO	NOTES
Full	155	18-Jul-24	Tree Wardens	It was agreed that Cllr Grace would provide further information after attending a meeting of the local parish and town councils later in the year. The meeting, it was hoped, would be attended by an MSDC Tree Officer.	Cllr Grace	
Full	182	21-Nov-24	Consultation Documents	It was agreed that the Council would submit a response to the consultation on Remote Meetings and Proxy Voting	Clerk	Submitted in December 2024
	184.3	21-Nov-24	Climate Change	Deputy Clerk attended the Climate Change Working Group Meeting to discuss the proposed document.	Deputy Clerk	
Full	186	21-Nov-24	Lindfield Pond	<p>It was agreed that the Parish Council would continue to lobby WSCC and would support Cllr Wall's suggestion. A proposal would be put to WSCC that they fully replace the posts and railings and then hand over the responsibility to the Parish Council.</p> <p>It was agreed that the feedback received from the public on the future of the posts and railings be shared in a Lindfield Life article.</p> <p>It was agreed that a further report on the matter be presented to the January Full Council meeting.</p>	Clerk	Update was included in January edition of Lindfield Life. LPC wrote to WSCC with Cllr Walls suggested solution (no reply received from WSCC at present). Report included for this meeting.

**Consultation:** **Strengthening the Standards and Conduct Framework for Local Authorities in England**

**Type:** **National**

**Deadline:** **26 February 2025**

**Summary:** The government is seeking views on proposals to introduce measures to strengthen the standards and conduct regime for local authorities in England. The proposals being consulted upon include:

- The introduction of a mandatory minimum code of conduct for local authorities in England
- A requirement that all principal authorities convene formal standards committees to make decisions on code of conduct breaches, and publish the outcomes of all formal investigations
- The introduction of the power for all local authorities (including combined authorities) to suspend councillors or mayors found in serious breach of their code of conduct and, as appropriate, interim suspension for the most serious and complex cases that may involve police investigations
- A new category of disqualification for gross misconduct and those subject to a sanction of suspension more than once in a 5-year period
- A role for a national body to deal with appeals

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/strengthening-the-standards-and-conduct-framework-for-local-authorities-in-england>

**Consultation:** **Compulsory Purchase Process and Compensation Reforms**

**Type:** **National**

**Deadline:** **13 February 2025**

**Summary:** The government is seeking views on a range of proposals aimed at implementing technical reforms to make the compulsory purchase process quicker, reduce process costs, and ensure compensation rules are fairer.

The government wants to ‘maximise the opportunities for provision of vital development facilitating much-needed benefits in the public interest through delivery of housing, infrastructure, amenity, and transport improvements where the use of compulsory purchase powers is facilitating land assembly for those purposes.’ As part of this it proposes to make better use of underutilised land across the country by expanding the list of Compulsory Purchase Order (CPO) powers, and ‘the associated acquiring authorities, in Schedule 2A to the Acquisition of Land Act 1981 where directions to remove hope value may be sought to include the CPO power under section 125 of the Local Government Act 1972’.

Section 125 allows CPOs to be made on behalf of town, parish and community councils by local authorities and the government has stated that it is aware that there is an appetite amongst some of these councils for a more proactive approach on using CPOs on their behalf. The government is therefore proposing that ‘CPOs made under section 125 of the Local Government Act 1972 on behalf of town and community councils should have the ability for directions to be included to remove hope value where the underlying schemes are facilitating affordable or social housing.’

<https://consult.communities.gov.uk/planning/consultation-compulsory-purchase-reforms/>

Committee Meeting:	Full Council
Item:	11.8
Report of:	Parish Clerk
Date:	23 January 2025
Subject:	Community Engagement Statement

**Purpose of Report:**

1. Members are asked to consider a proposed Community Engagement Statement.

**Summary:**

2. Members are asked to recommend that the council implement the draft Community Engagement Statement and approve a modification to the name of the Communications Working Group.

**Recommendation(s)**

**The F&GP Committee has recommended Full Council to:**

- a) **Agree the community engagement statement be recommended to the Full Council.**

**Background & Considerations:**

3. The Communications Working Group met in December and considered various matters. At the meeting, it was suggested that the name of the Working Group be amended to Communications and Community Engagement due to the overlap of the group's mandate. This was agreed at F&GP (9<sup>th</sup> January).
4. The Working Group have drafted a proposed Community Engagement Statement (Appendix 1). The statement forms part of a comprehensive communications review. The statement provides the council with a clear focus on our community engagement goals. Having defined these goals, the council can then examine specifics such as our strengths, areas for improvement, and the suitability of existing policies. The council can also draft new policies and suggest revisions. Additionally, we can explore how AI tools can enhance our delivery and analysis of information and communications. The statement was considered by F&GP and has been recommended to Full Council for approval.

**Financial**

5. None

**Appendices**

- Appendix 1 Draft Community Engagement Statement

## **Appendix 1 - Draft Community Engagement Statement**

### Introduction

Lindfield Parish Council is the closest tier of local government to the community. The Parish Council wants to work closely with the public, including all residents, community groups and businesses, to encourage participation in decision-making. The aim is to secure sustainable, affordable and better services supporting an active and informed community.

### How we work with residents

The Parish Council seeks to engage with all sections of Lindfield's community including the young, disenfranchised, disaffected and the elderly as well as the local business community, the many clubs, organisations, charities and societies which are active in the parish, the neighbourhood policing team, the local schools and churches. The Parish Council is also committed to engaging with any persons who have an interest in matters relating to the economic, social and environmental well-being of its area.

The Parish Council is committed to partnership working where it is clear that it will be of benefit to the parish or to fulfil its statutory requirements. The Parish Council works with both Mid Sussex District Council and West Sussex County Council to improve their service delivery in the parish. The council will consult the community should it resolve to undertake, initiate or facilitate any major projects or undertakings in the parish.

The implementation of Plan 23-27 is a recent example where a number of residents became involved in the process by submitting consultation responses which helped inform the document.

### How residents can work with us

The Clerks can be contacted at the Parish Council Office, which is open Monday to Friday 9 am-5 pm, by telephone or by email.

Elected members are powerful advocates for their community and their leadership role enables them to have a major input into the consultation and engagement process. Lindfield Parish Councillors are very accessible and available for informal discussion. Their contact details are published on the website, in the quarterly newsletters to parishioners and on our website. They are available to talk to residents during the public session at the start of each Parish Council meeting and at the Annual Parish Meeting. In a private capacity, councillors belong to many other local clubs, societies and organisations, where they may, if they so wish, promote the work of the Parish Council and to make themselves available to parishioners.

All Parish Council and Committee meetings are open to the public and include a public session when residents can make representation to members. Representations to the Parish Council will normally be considered at the relevant committee meeting, unless they require the provision of information only, when the Clerk will provide it accordingly. The publication of agendas on the Parish Council's website and notice board allows residents to make representation to the council before agenda items are discussed. All formal representations received are responded to by letter or email.

### Why have a Community Engagement Statement

This statement forms part of a comprehensive communications review. The statement provides the council with a clear focus on our community engagement goals. Having defined these goals, the council can then examine specifics such as our strengths, areas for improvement, and the suitability of existing policies. The council can also draft new policies and suggest revisions. Additionally, we can explore how AI tools can enhance our delivery and analysis of information and communications