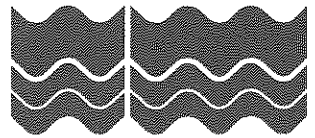


**Governance Services
Department**

PO Box 2714
County Hall
St Anne's Crescent
Lewes
East Sussex
BN7 1UE
Tel: 0345 60 80 190
Fax: 01273 481900
www.eastsussex.gov.uk
DX 97482 Lewes 3

**East Sussex
County Council**



Philip Baker LLB (Hons)
Solicitor
Assistant Chief Executive
Governance Services

Ms Victoria Rutt
Clerk and RFO
11 Highfield Road
Horam
East Sussex
Alfriston Parish Council
TN21 0ED

Date

when responding please contact
Philip Baker
Direct Line: 01273 481564
Email: philip.baker@eastsussex.gov.uk

our ref
PB

your ref

5 June 2019

Dear Ms Rutt

Thank you for your letter of 28th May 2019.

The Council has consistently informed residents that a decision about this long running issue will be taken at the lead member meeting in the Spring and published it in our Forward Plan as the June meeting. Whilst it was originally intended that the decision be taken by the Lead Member for Transport (who at that time was Cllr Bennett), that is no longer possible as the new Lead Member for Transport, Cllr Dowling, is not available on the published date. However, this is not a reason to delay the matter. The Council's decision making process recognises that on occasions a Cabinet Member allocated particular responsibilities may be unable to act and so enables another Member of the Cabinet to exercise the function on their behalf. The Lead Member's decision will be informed by a detailed officer report providing the background and relevant information. Having consulted the Leader of the Council, he has agreed that Cllr Bennett (who remains on the Cabinet as Deputy Leader) should make the decision to avoid any further delay. Cllr Bennett has considerable knowledge of this matter, and whilst I appreciate that you have previously raised concern about Cllr Bennett making the decision, there is no legal or constitutional reason why he should not take the decision.

I recognise this is not the response you would like but hope it clarifies the Council's position.

Yours sincerely

Philip Baker
Assistant Chief Executive
Governance Services



Recycled Paper

