ALFRISTON PARISH COUNCIL

**Proposal to temporarily close the High Street**

Dear All

Some of you will be aware that on Tuesday 9th June, Alfriston Parish Council [APC] liaised with Alfriston Cuckmere Connect [ACC] to seek the views of business owners on a proposal to temporarily close the High Street to traffic (whilst retaining access for various categories) following it being brought to our attention that a large number of local councils across the country are taking advantage of the government’s Traffic Management Act 2004: network management in response to COVID-19 regulations.

The thinking behind this is that businesses, particularly those who will find implementing social distancing difficult, and so may not be able to open at all, can occupy the pavements outside their premises and pedestrians can occupy the traffic free road. This is being implemented elsewhere as an aid to businesses in bouncing back from the lockdown.

As APC have received a very mixed response from businesses as to what steps might help them deal with the relaxation of lockdown and the implementation of social distancing, APC wants to approach ESCC in the first instance to ask them what, out of a wide range of different possibilities, might be acceptable to them as the responsible authority. Thereafter all those possibilities that would meet with ESCC approval will be discussed at a special APC meeting.

For anyone to speculate as to any outcome would be premature and no decisions will be taken by APC as to what they might support without a public meeting, at which views will be heard. Until then everyone should please hold fire on giving their views. This is just a fact-finding mission in the first instance.

We would like to reassure both parishioners and business owners that APC will take no action without full consideration of all views expressed. We endeavour to represent the interests of all those we represent and will ensure to take account of both written and verbal expressions of interest, including the opportunity to speak at a public meeting.

Kind Regards

Victoria Rutt

Clerk and RFO to Alfriston Parish Council