

Sorry a bit late but i've been a bit busy.

I think for the month of May my busiest time has been trying to explain about Travellers illegally parking up and in one case Gypsy's settling onto land at Northchapel.

I won't go into depth on this issue but just to say that without passing any buck, the County don't have much in the way of powers to do something about these issues. However we do what we can and our main issue is the affect on the highways like for instance new entrances onto a road.

All that said in my opinion the Chichester District Council officers did a splendid job within the powers that they have. They immediately over a Bank holiday weekend got Stop notices on the site and of course this needed more than one as first they issued one to stop the earth works and then when Caravans started to arrive they issued a second Stop notice.

Now for those who think they should have done this earlier this is not possible because you can only issue these notices once something has started to happen so of course the Stop notice for the vehicles couldn't be issued until Caravans started to arrive.

I won't say more on this issue as CDC have now got an injunction for the site and it is inappropriate for me to say more at this time.

The Irish Travellers are a different issue and both Kirdford and Ebernoe suffered this intrusion. It's more than just that they turn up and park where they shouldn't it's the mess and the cost of clearing up that is left in their wake.

It's an ongoing problem and very difficult to do a lot about.

I'm afraid that most months I am going to bore you with something about Devolution because although many who are not involved closely do not know too much about this issue it is going to affect everyone so a brief update and I know that the week after I write this there will be more to inform so this is so far and forgive me if I said some of this before.

At this time the Government have accepted an all Sussex Mayoral Strategic authority and the election for position of My for all Sussex will take place in May 2026.

The ongoing discussion is for the LGR or as it is really called the Local Government Reorganisation. When it has been decided how Sussex will be divided I will let you know and I am sure the News will inform you of a Government decision. What I know at the moment is that a scheme for 2 with a possible third scheme will be put to Government with possibilities such as a north south split, and east west split and a couple of other ideas. It's a case of watch this space and in the meant time it's looking increasingly if it all goes ahead that us County Councillors will be in situ until May 2028 when it is supposed that both County and Districts/Boroughs will go and the knew Mayoral and Unitary bodies will take over. Interesting times.

One of County Chhildrens homes in Cuckfield has been put forward for a prestigious award and when you think where we were about 4 years ago this is quite something. Our childrens Services have gone from strength to strength.

In Fire and Rescue we are losing our excellent Chief Fire Officer Sabrina Cohen-Hatton as she is moving to be Chief Fire Officer for Hampshire. She has done a wonderful job in West Sussex including the amazing Training and Fire Station at Broadbridge Heath. Although we will miss her we have some brilliant Officers that supported Sabrina so I have little doubt that improvement will continue with the times.

Our Libraries now in their 101 year are also opening up too many other activities than just the import bit of issuing books and most Libraries have many other activities. By opening up to other activities it will keep Library buildings in good use and so far we have not had to close any of them. Long may that last.

Trading standards have been busy as ever and managed to successfully prosecute for illegal items in stores and builders who have taken lots of money from people without doing a proper job. They have a difficult job.

On another subject, Highways we have this week opened a new by-pass at Lymington. This should make the travel from Arundel to Littlehampton easier and bypass Wicke.

As ever if you need to contact me it's janet.duncton@westsussex.gov.uk and mobile 07979152898.

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