

**Cllr. Janet Duncton (June)**  
**WSSC & CDC**

Well, what a time it's been. The Queens Platinum Jubilee celebrations in all the Parish's shows just what can be achieved when we all work together. I couldn't attend all the Parish's in my County division because there are 11 of you and there are not enough hours in the day but I did get to Petworth, Kirdford, Tillington, Ebernoe and my husband went to the Lurgashall Fete and reported back so I know that was good as well.

County Council wise leading up to the Jubilee was a busy period which included a full County Council meeting. Of course our Council meetings are the place to have discussions and questions on items that you sometimes don't get the opportunity to ask, it has to be accepted that CDC and County Council are somewhat Political and many Councillors want to make a point.

You may have seen that the Conservatives at County looked what appeared to be bad press on a motion regarding investment in fossil fuel in the Pension fund. I won't go into long explanation but just to give the facts.

County Council employees are part of a much larger Pension organisation, I believe it has some 200 different organisations in it. It is not run by County or any other Council. For some time a motion has been put about divesting from Fossil fuels but not debated. In the May Council we actually had time to deal with the motions and this one was the second one for debate. On being asked to present the motion the Councillor chose to remove it from debate on the grounds that we had put in an amendment. This is a common occurrence with all Political parties and the idea is that you get to discuss the motion and the amendment at the same time and then take a vote. Now I am not privy to the real reason why the proposer withdrew her motion but what I will say that the Cabinet member for finance had looked into the Pension company investments and concluded that none of their investments was in the extraction of fossil fuel but in the development of renewals so it would have been good to be able to tell the public what the situation was. They of course have many other investments to get the best they can for the employees.

I am not on the Pension Panel and to be frank I am absolutely not able to give detail of how it all works because I don't know but I do wish we had been able to debate the motion and put the record straight because I am sure others would be interested in this as we are all doing our best for the benefit of the climate. It's a long slow process but all are doing their best and I know this from County & District Council.

I try and visit my County Schools at least once a year but it's been difficult with the Covid situation and I feel guilty interrupting Schools that are very, very busy. However the time has come and I have started making appointments with Head Teachers.

I have 6 Forrest Schools in my division and really good Schools they are so I am looking forward to catching up with them personally to see how things are going. I am sure it isn't all plain sailing there have been so many difficulties.

On a happy School note. Woodlands Mead special needs School has now been started and so thankfully will get built. Of course life isn't easy in the building industry like other industries and prices are rocketing as most of you will know. However we still need facilities like Schools so this is good news.

If you travel in the Horsham direction at Broadbridge Heath you will also see on the east side of the roundabout on the A264 a new structure. This is the new Horsham Fire Station and Training centre. It's coming on at a pace. The facility when built will be offered to other Fire Services that would like to use it for training purposes for Fire & Rescue Crew.

The budget process for next year is already underway and my goodness it's going to be a tough one. Obviously no decisions until later in the year but we already know how tough it's going to be so watch this space later in the year.

Chichester District is still working with other agencies to try and find a solution to Crouchlands and the infamous Lagoon 3. We have a meeting coming up early in June so I may be able to give more information in July but in all honesty I don't see a quick solution to this horrific problem. All residents want is for the Lagoon to be emptied and the land returned to its natural use which was farmland. I think we have some time ahead of us yet and I would love to be proved wrong.

Of course Water neutrality is still with us and I don't have a time scale for this difficult situation yet but Crawley, Mid Sussex, Horsham and Chichester and of course the South Downs National Park are all trying to sort out this situation and the Chief Executive at Horsham is going to take the lead on this although I can only stress everyone is doing all they can to get a resolution.

Chichester, I have told you before has built more homeless housing in Chichester. This is now full to capacity at the moment but is much appreciated by those unfortunate enough to lose their homes. Life for many is not going to get easier at the moment but we are helping as much as we can.

Chichester has also taken a lead over the Great Sussex Way project which shows just what there is on offer for the visitor and indeed the resident in this District and County. There is a lot going on.

I think that is about all for the moment. As you know these notes are really just a taster of what is going on but when I can attend Parish meetings I am happy to try and answer queries or take questions away to get answers to them. If I am not in attendance at the Parish meetings the Clerks send me e-mails of any issue they need looking at and I do try to get answers for the Parish's, not always as easy as you may think and often solutions are not quick to come. I must say in a couple of my Parish's though I have been lucky enough to get the new machine in to deal with bad conditions on some roads. Yes I know there are more but as I've said before there are 70 of us Councillors at County and 37 at Chichester District Council all trying to get works done for our Parish's.

West Sussex Childrens Services is now going from strength to strength but were not there yet. To repeat though we are the only County in the Country who are in special measures that the Department at Government has said will not have to put our Children's Services into a Trust as such good progress is being made. Long may our improvement continue.

Electric vehicle charging Points. You will know the Streets are the Counties responsibility and the Car Parks CDC. Obviously everyone is looking to install more charging points and County has a scheme for the County which can be joined by all Districts and Boroughs. However at this moment in time CDC hasn't joined BUT they are a bit ahead of the game and at the time of writing they have installed 18 VCP's in 9 of their own Car Parks so they are getting on with it.

One last item of interest to the residents. The County Council can now take hard Plastic items which they couldn't until recently. Our new contractor Biffa have agreed to work with us on this. As Yet not

all of the recycling centres can take hard Plastic and sadly at the moment Billingshurst is one of those. Chichester however can. The reason is not because we don't want them all to take hard Plastic some of the sites just don't have the space for an extra Bin. We are working on finding solutions though.

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