

Good morning,

Just a few updates on what's going on in our Local Government.

Firstly, West Sussex County Council. I want to assure all my Parish's that as fast as I find or receive road issues many of which are of course Pothole related but not all, I do pass them on through a dedicated Members site. I know some send via Love West Sussex etc but I do manage to get job reported numbers and what's happening from the Members site so hope this helps to move things on. Frustratingly Potholes that get marked with a white line are only done in a 28 day period not immediately. Gully's have also been blocked with this awful weather.

To get Potholes out of the way. I have not been too pleased with the way some of the repairs have been done at some sites and I have reported this back. It really isn't acceptable to actually come out and do the job requested but to do it so poorly that it doesn't last. I know there are strict rules on how and when but what a waste of everyone's time and money when a job is not done up to standard. You can be assured that at County I do have some long conversations with the Highways department. Things have got to improve.

On the upside if all goes to plan I have had some successes with regards to the state of the roads and sometimes the local Highways Ranger has passed the work forward to the department in charge of bigger road works that are required. One notable one on the sharp Tillington corner which I am hopeful will be properly re-surfaced. It is a mess at the moment.

In Wisborough Green on another Sharp corner I have asked that they look to see if this corner needs it's anti slip surface renewed. The property there can no longer get insurance for fence replacements it happens so often that Cars mis judge and slew into the fence. Nothing happens at speed I am afraid but I am trying.

All our Schools have done very well in exceptional circumstances with keeping pupils in education. It's is a lot of work and effort on behalf of every School Staff member and indeed the Pupils but during this difficult, nearly 2 years, they have done whatever has been asked of them. I am sure we all owe the Schools a big thank you for all they have done and that is of course along with everything everyone has done. What a time we have lived through and not all over yet.

This continuing wet weather and the warm earth has made everything grown extensively. Now many want the verges left for insects, Bees etc and I agree with that but I think we must keep access verges clear so that visibility is maintained especially when entering a main road from a side road. You need clear visibility.

A quick word on the Children's Services. Progress is in the right direction. I have told you before but it's worth repeating.

Our commissioner and the Department of Education have agreed that our progress in children's Services including the refurbishment of our Children's homes is all going in the right direction and for this reason they are not looking to put West Sussex Children's Services in a Trust. To make sure we still improve they will be looking at our progress after one year. I have no doubt that we will continue to improve.

The Fire & Rescue service that was behind with it's community Service which is basically going out to peoples homes and talking to them and advising where necessary on safety issues in the home. This is now caught up and instead of the 2000 visits that were outstanding they now have none just dealing with requests as they arrive. Internal issues have also been resolved.

I think I may have said before but the new Horsham Fire Station is being built at Broadbridge Heath and will include training facilities which will be hired by other Fire & Rescue Services and bring in a decent income.

I won't name the sites but on occasion we have had to close Household waste & re-cycling sites for short times because of Covid. It's usually only for a few days but has to be done. If you are visiting a site it's wise to check first and make sure they are not closed.

For those in the Loxwood ward that I and Gareth represent. Gareth will give you a full report I am sure but just to add that the long awaited application for the Clay Pit site in Loxwood is now to the

County Council Planning, in but not yet validated although it may be by the end of this week or next. The Officers are keeping me up to date with what's going on so it's watch this space.

Parish's within the National Park will be interested to know that they have just held their AGM and there is a new Chairman of the Planning Committee, Heather Baker. Heather and I have worked together at Chichester District Council in the past and more recently on the SDNP and Planning committee in particular. I am sure she will do a great job.

Recent work with the Park has been visits to Firle Estate to look at their future Plans for the whole Estate. A visit to Seven Sisters Country Park which SDNP is purchasing from Eastbourne Council and have great Plans for. Recently with a big application of 226 houses in the National Park probably the biggest development within any National Park in the Country, I have also attended a site visit one week and then we held the Planning committee the next week. This went through and you may ask why in a NP. Well the very short answer is that this site was in the Local Plan for Lewes before there was a National Park in situ so it was a matter of getting things like access right along with a couple of other things. This was outline so now we await the full application at some stage.

As you all know it was County elections in May and I thank you for returning me as the Petworth division member. Training and workshops are being held on a regular basis and I have attended my first face to face meeting, Planning & Rights of Way in the last 18 months. It was a pleasure. Workshops for the 22/23 budget are about to start.

Keep safe everyone. Contact me if you need some help with issues on either, janet.dunton@westsussex.gov.uk, jdunton@chichester.gov.uk

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