

CDALC Northern Parishes Meeting 1st September 2022 – Notes

Big Picture

CDALC has suffered from a lack of engagement from the northern parish councils of the district. This meeting was called to find out why and to see what CDALC could do to encourage greater engagement. The meeting was led by Andrew Shaxon (AS), CDALC Vice-Chair and Trevor Leggo (TL), SSALC CEO.

As the only member present who had consistently attended CDALC meetings, I was asked to kick off the discussion. I don't think I endeared myself! The fact is that, as TL pointed out, the CDALC area (which is the CDC area) spans the county from the Solent to the Surrey border. Meetings are dominated by reports from the SDNP and Chichester Harbour Conservancy and, while both bodies, and the matters they are concerned with, are vitally important to the district as a whole, they have little direct impact on us in Plaistow & Ifold.

AS suggested re-forming the Petworth chapter of CDALC. I asked how this body's purpose would differ from that of the existing, informal, northern parishes' group. I went further and asked how CDALC's purpose differed from that of the CDC All Parishes meetings and the Clerks' and Chairs' forums. TL defined the purpose of CDALC as being to ensure that the interests of the parish councils were represented at CDC. I then asked if he could give an example from the last two years of CDALC having done so. Tellingly he couldn't!

A report from this meeting will go to the 14th September CDALC meeting. It will be interesting to see what it says. In all honesty, I cannot see the point of CDALC.

Small Picture

The following issues were raised and gained traction across a number of Parishes:

1. Speeding motorbikes are a curse across many parishes along the A272, A29, through Petworth and elsewhere. Parishes were encouraged to club together to buy a 'black cat' speed trap which would send data direct to the police. CDALC would encourage WSCC to invest in acoustic traps too. (A lot of the complaints were about noise). Petworth Town Council is meeting Andrew Griffiths MP in Petworth early on Sunday morning to see the problem at first hand. Parishes reported that Andrew Griffiths is particularly well engaged with parishes. Gillian Keegan's name was met with a collective groan.
2. Engagement with PCSOs is variable across parishes. Parishes were encouraged to attend the Police Forums – another meeting which is traditionally poorly attended – to put their concerns direct to the Chief Constable and the PCC.
3. There seems to be little co-ordination between the people who put up road closure signs and the contractors who carry out the work. Road closure signs are often in place for longer than the road is in fact closed and are often placed a long distance away, without indicating where the actual closure is.

Cllr. Nicholas Taylor
2 September 2022