

December 2023

County Councillor Report

There are changes a foot at the moment and I believe I have already said our Chief Executive at County is departing. Becky Shaw has been a breath of fresh air since she has been with us, but you will know we share her time with East Sussex and the time has come for her to return full time to East Sussex. She will be missed so here's hoping we get some good candidates in the new year.

I know you are a short way from the boundary of the South Downs National Park but it's all change there as well. One of our Directors Andrew Lee is off at the end of January to retire as is our Chief Executive who will retire at the start of January. Both of these Officers have steered the Park through a lot of choppy waters from it's very beginning now some nearly 13 years ago. Where does the time fly to.

Busy times for us all and what a year it's been with Coronation, Fetes, Bonfires and many more village events. I don't think Plaistow and Ifold have a Bonfire on the 5th November but maybe I'm wrong. However, I know there is one at Kirdford nearby. We have one at Hampers Green in Petworth and my goodness what a lot of work it all takes before, after and on the night. However, it gives a lot of pleasure to many people.

On County issues. We have now had the official opening of Platinum House the new Fire and Rescue Centre at Broadbridge Heath. What a place it is and now getting many requests for training there. Just recently another team of retained Fire Fighters trained there and they passed out in the first week of December and starting their work at various Towns in West Sussex.

My regular plea please. If you know anyone who may be interested in Fostering we are always wanting people to come forward. There are many who need our help.

I think the Highways have been my biggest concern in recent times and the recent bad weather has not helped. You don't need to tell me of the problems it causes everyone I know and just over this last weekend we have had yet another fallen tree and partial Bank collapse on the A283 between Fittleworth and Pulborough which didn't help the situation with the Pulborough A29 only being partially open for similar reasons. On top of that there was a Car on fire on Duncton Hill which closed the A285 from Petworth and different spots for flooding. You can see why it's been busy but I am not trying to brush over the never ending problems of Potholes. When we get around to doing them my concern is that they get done properly and our great Patching machines are down to one for the winter period. There are many things that waste time but one that can drive you nuts is when you get a repair done and within a matter of days it's as bad as ever. This seems to me to be a waste of time and money and although it's our Contractor who does the work they have to come back at their own cost to do the job again which is a waste of time and money.

Not a lot more to inform you of at the moment but I do hope you have a great Christmas and that next year brings us a good year and we achieve many of our goals. Again, sorry for the lateness of these notes.

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