

## **Report of Cllr. Janet Duncton**

### **Meeting – 12.04.2023**

I know some do not have meetings this month and others do, but for me it's a time when I cannot say all the things that I would normally include. Until the elections on the 4<sup>th</sup> May we are in a period of Purdah.

However, life goes on and there are at least 3 things I think Parish's will like to know.

First of all, I have been saying about OFSTED coming in for our Childrens Services at County. About 3 weeks ago we got the call and they have now been in. When we get the results, I will of course let the Parish's have them.

It has been a dreadful time for our Highways. We always have to cope with bad weather conditions but the worst problems we have at the moment are the A29 at Pulborough and the A286 through Midhurst. As you will all know the old Angel Hotel in Midhurst burnt down along with some other adjoining properties.

Because of safety and the stability of what is left of the Hotel the A286 has to be kept closed to through traffic. However, until at least later this month the main Car Parks are Free in Midhurst as of course it's business as usual for most of the other shops and restaurants etc in the Town.

The knock-on effect of this is that traffic is having to get around Midhurst somehow and the small back roads are taking a real hammering and although County is trying to patch when some get really bad it is not an easy job. At this moment I cannot tell you when we can expect the A286 to be open, but it won't be until it is safe to do so.

The A29 is ongoing and once again I cannot give an opening date. What I do know is that we are expecting to make it safe enough for some traffic to use and I am sure you will have received the Newsletter that was published at the beginning of the month. To be brief, the main hold up is trying to negotiate with the actual owners of the collapsed banks on either side of the road and I can assure you that expert advice was used before the decision to close the road for safety reasons was taken. The banks either side are still unstable.

Of course, this affects those of us in the filling of the sandwich between these 2 horror stories. Our back roads and villages and indeed our Town of Petworth are taking much heavier traffic because of the detours that are being taken. This also makes it difficult to mend the roads which is a continuous story.

For those of you that I won't meet with until after the Coronation I hope you have a great community time. Working with a group in Petworth I know how much work goes into organising these events, but a Coronation is something that we want to remember with pleasure. Pretty sure I will be ready to sleep for a long time on the 8<sup>th</sup> May after a weekend of celebrations.

I can still be contacted as normal during the election period as life doesn't stop; you just have to be more careful.

Janet Duncton

County Councillor Petworth division

Chichester District Councillor Loxwood ward