

County Councillor Janet Duncton's Report

Meeting date: 17th May 2023

Midhurst is sadly still closed to traffic, although the Car Parks north and south are both open for parking as are the shops in the Town. Not for parking, but for shopping!

The main issue is the instability of the front wall of the Angel Hotel. Now to you and me this seems quite simple, but with Insurance companies and English Heritage involved I'm afraid it's not so simple.

Many in Midhurst would just like the façade to be taken down as the chimney has to be. Now we will all have our opinions of this and mine for the record is take it down. It's a Victorian façade to a Tudor building which has gone completely and we dare not let traffic through, as heavy lorry may shake the foundations and it collapses. Now while to some this is acceptable you have to be aware of who may or could be damaged as this happened. It is not a risk the County Council can take.

In the meantime, when the owners structural Engineers have reported and the Insurance company have deliberated the South Downs National Park have stepped in to shore the façade up and when that is safe the County will let traffic through. Absolute nightmare the whole thing.

Now for the other nightmare. The A29. As yet, once again no agreement with the landowners either side and as you know the land is all in the hands of private landowners. However, you will also know that the County has facilitated the opening for one way traffic and whilst not ideal it is working quite well so let's hope some sense rains there soon.

The Patching machine is out and about now but very tied up with the awful state of the small roads around the Midhurst area which have been so badly damaged by so much traffic using highly unsuitable alternatives to going straight through the town.

I don't yet have the results of the OFSTED report for our Children's Services, but will let you have them as soon as I know.

Really nothing else much to report this month. Elections have got in the way of normal business I'm afraid.

Hopefully I will see everyone at various PC and Town Council meetings.

Janet Duncton

County Councillor Petworth division