

.....AND FROM COUNTY & DISTRICT COUNCILLOR JANET DUNCTON

Well here we are in June and officially the start of Summer so here's hoping for good weather. Yes being married to a Farmer I know we need some rain but we have had a little in May so hope that will keep us going for a while. It's been busy at County, District and South Downs National Park recently so much going on and some of it not of interest to all residents but just a few snippets.

The bane of every County Councillor is the Pothole. Now nothing is cured over night but in County's efforts to get on top of road damage like the pot holes we now have 2 special patching machines which have been doing a good job over the County. Actually to give them their correct title they are Velocity road patching machines. I am hoping that when they go to a pot hole that is deep enough to be seen to that they will also include any defects close by that are nearing the time for intervention.. It always seems such a waste to have to come back a while later because another developing hole isn't quite at the standard depth for repair so here's hoping.

I know many in the northern part of the District and my County ward have been concerned about an application known as the Loxwood Clay Pit application for some long time. As I write this the application should come to the County Planning & Rights of Way committee on the 18th May. There is an Officer recommendation for the application to be refused but in my position as a Planning committee member I am not at liberty to say more but by the time you read this you will know the outcome for this application. (Editor - it was refused!)

Yet another Planning item for the Plaistow/Ifold area and this is a proposed development for the old Foxbridge Golf course site. I will not make comments here, it is in the consultation stages and although Alan Sutton the Cabinet member at Chichester District Council has been guiding them with regards to housing requirements this is not a decision but a discussion and it in no way confers acceptance of the possible application it is purely discussion. Another watch this space.

In the last month we have had good news at County with regards to Childrens Services. An interim Ofsted inspection has confirmed that improvements have been made all round with some of the items of course still having to improve for when we get the final Ofsted which we are fairly confident will be good news as long as we keep working on this area.

A recent visit to the Waste & Recycling site owned by County and run by Biffa was an eye opener on how our waste is dealt with after it leaves your bins. Fires usually quite small, occur on a regular basis because people still put

things like batteries in their general waste. If residents could please think about this and put batteries in the boxes and bags provided in many places nowadays it would be very helpful.

Another eye opener was the many Pallets we saw being wheeled about with what looked like all sorts of electrical leads, plugs etc. These had all come to be destroyed as they had been retrieved by Trading Standards as copy illegal items that get imported and are then sold through various outlets to the unsuspecting purchaser.

Our Trading Standards at County are a bit of the unsung heroes. They have also had success with the company at Gatwick offering to look after your car while you travel which was doing dreadful things and not looking after vehicles as they should including using them, leaving them in an unclean state and many with the keys left in them. Scams are another area that they are very hot on.

To finish this month, some of you know that when time is available I help with Petworth Ukraine Relief. We operate out of a Barn between Lodsworth and Lickfold and we are under the direction of a marvellous man called Eddie Bouys who's wife is Ukrainian. This would be a long e-mail if I tried to tell you all that we have been doing and because of my other commitments I don't get to help with the packing as much as I would like but I do bake them the odd Cake to keep them going and help when I can. If anyone has donations that they would like to go to Ukraine I can always pick them up and take them to our depot just let me know.

Can I also say that at this moment we have more clothes than we know what to do with but anything medical, tinned and dried food apparently Buckwheat is very popular in Ukraine and baby nappies and sanitary products. All very much in demand and our 7th Lorry has departed for Ukraine probably by the time you read this the 8th will also have gone. What a dreadful, dreadful situation they are in.

Contact me

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Well, here's hoping that we have a good summer and I wish you all well now that we are able to visit friends and family again

Keep safe

Janet Dunton

County Councillor Petworth division

Chichester District Councillor Loxwood ward