

## **WSSC Janet Duncton June 2025**

I hope to get to your Parish/Town Council's as ever but apologies in advance if I don't make it. I will try and keep you up to speed with anything relevant but as I said in my email to the Clerks I had thought I was retiring last May elections but as you know the Government cancelled the elections for this year and as yet we don't know what will happen in May 26 and indeed May 27.

This is a personal opinion and may be proved completely wrong. Only time will tell but as you know the election for the new Mayoral Authority and indeed the Mayor will take place next first Thursday in May 26 so you have to wonder if the Government will bother with County elections as well and although they can only cancel them for one year without legislation to do otherwise another line of thought is they may cancel for one year again. This would not surprise me as any elected person to County Council will only have a 2 year term and then both County and District are finished with the new Mayoral strategic authority and Unitary authority's taking over. It is of course possible that they will not have further elections for the County Council as it's disappearing and if that happened we would be there until 2028. It's a case of watch this space I'm afraid.

I think I have already apologised to Loxwood as I will miss their June meeting. Every year my husband and I go over to the Petworth Twin village of Ranville for d day.

Ranville was the first village to be liberated on d day and is situated just north of the famous Pegasus Bridge. We are there this year but had made it a longer stay as I didn't expect to still be a Councillor.

However please don't think that I will not work as hard for you all over the next few years if that happens because I can assure you I will continue to do my best for the Parish's I represent and indeed for West Sussex in general.

There are one or two facts published recently that you may be interested in. Most of you are acquainted with the Watershed applications which are provided for Parish's to carry out works usually in connection with drainage issues.

This was introduced in 2013 and some £5.3million has been granted to 178 Groups covering 479 schemes. I think it's been successful.

I have told you about the Safe and Well scheme that is carried out by our Firefighters. Basically they visit mainly vulnerable households and help them to be able to live safely in their own property. We have now carried out 5.948 visits which is pretty good and we have installed 4644 smoke alarms.

Again through the Fire Service, Safe drive, Stay alive has been put on around the County and 3530 Secondary School students have attended. This has also involved some 2333 hours of voluntary support to put on these sessions.

Still with the Fire Service. We have purchased 8 medium, off road pumping appliances. In our large area of country side these are invaluable when we get fires on say, commons or woods or indeed Farms.

I hardly dare mention this but here goes. In the last year we have mended 144.767 Potholes and completed 36.031 sq metres of small and medium structure and footway patching issues.

2635 signs have been cleaned but I won't stop mentioning this until they are all cleaned and 123000 drainage Gullies have been cleared.

I hope you can see that despite everything else that's happening we are continuing to work as normal and that's my intention.

As ever if you need to contact me it [janet.duncton@westsussex.gov.uk](mailto:janet.duncton@westsussex.gov.uk) or my mobile which I know is difficult sometimes because I have to switch it off for meetings and sometimes it doesn't get switched back on as quickly as it should. However the number is 07979152898.

All the best.

Janet Duncton

County Councillor Petworth division