

Report from Cllr. Janet Duncton

An extension of the contract we have with the YMCA for 'Blended Counselling' has been granted for an extra 2 years bringing this Service up to October 2023.

We are looking to renew the contract which gives Carers short breaks. So important especially if you are a full time Carer with hardly any time for yourself.

Orchard House, one of our Children's homes in Cuckfield, is being re-modelled and this is a much needed facility for those with learning difficulties etc.

The Department for Education has provided finance for those on free School meals to have this facility through easter, summer and Christmas holidays for 2022. Let's hope it will continue.

The street sweeping contract is going to be let and over the past few years because we recycle most of the Street Sweepings it has saved the County 2.6 million pounds so it's a good Service and will be continued.

In the last week of June we had the most informative day on how things work from the Highways depots. We saw the new virtual patching machine in action and the process took some 7 minutes from start to finish with a surface produced that was fit to drive on as soon as they had finished the job. To me one of my big bug bears, and I know others feel the same, is the fact that the 40mm rule on depth of potholes is somewhat overcome by this new machinery and if a pothole does not meet the regulation depth but is next to one that does they will do that one at the same time. Joy to hear as I've always thought it a nonsense that the one next door couldn't be done because it wasn't deep enough. It also does a superior job to the old methods.

To reassure you that I do use my members site to report all defects on the highways that either I see for myself or the Parish's report to me.

I think all the Councillors there were also impressed that with every Service provided through our Highways departments the majority now take great care with environmental issues not only the way work is carried out but the equipment purchased to carry out that work even with contracts like say Tree Surgeons that we use to do work for County's

As yet I haven't managed to get to all 6 of the Schools in my division, but I have made a start with 2 and appointments to visit the other 4 before they break up for the Summer holidays. Before even visiting them I know that all 6 of the Schools are pretty good Schools and some have more people from other villages trying to get their children in to them than they have from their own villages.

I hope everyone had a good Jubilee. Most places did I know and I got to several of my division Parish's but I am sure you will appreciate I couldn't get to all. What a busy time it was and of course now the Fete season is in full swing. All good community events.

For the benefit of Loxwood in these notes. You all know the outcome of the Loxwood Clay Pit application and I have been questioned regarding the issuing of the refusal notices. This is all in hand and I have been speaking with the Officer who is dealing with this application. He will let me know once the notices have been dispatched. I am afraid there are issues that I am not at liberty to talk about at the moment, but believe me please when I say that the Officer is working as well as he can to get this issue dealt with.

Again for Loxwood. I have also been in correspondence with local residents and the Planning Office at Chichester District Council regarding the S106 agreement being sent out. Again it isn't straight forward mainly due to the water neutrality issue but both the District Solicitor and the Planning Officer are in no doubt that we need this settled so that we can get a Shop at Nursery Green site.

At Chichester it is the 10th Anniversary of the Novium Museum and there have been some amazing exhibitions that have brought in 10's of thousands of people to see exhibitions like the Tim Peak 'Extraordinary Journey', exhibition and just recently the 'Brick Wonders' which is Lego. Now there is an exhibition of the art of Chichester, 60 years of creativity especially with Chichester Festival Theatre, Pallant House Gallery and the Cathedral.

Not a lot of progress to report on the Chichester Local Plan. Still of course held up by the Water Neutrality position although work continues and the last week was workshops on the Gypsy and Traveller part of the Plan. I don't have anything much to report on that situation but when there is news I will pass it on. The other issue with the local Plan is of course housing numbers. 2 or 3 appeals recently that we lost have quoted housing numbers one saying that Chichester's housing land supply was sound and the other 2 saying we were short of the targets. It's all a bit messy at the moment to say the least but I will report when I have more information.

That's most of the items at the moment, but hopefully I will attend the Parish meetings and be able to update if there is something to report and of course take questions.

If I don't have the answers I will get written answers and send to the Clerks.

Look forward to seeing you.



Janet Duncton
County Councillor Petworth division
Chichester District Councillor Loxwood ward