

Report of District and County Councillor, Janet Duncton

Update on first of all at District Council I am pleased to report that we now have a 5-year housing land supply in place. However, in Planning we have no resolution yet to the problem of Hardham water supply. It seems very complicated but the Leader, Chief Executive and the Cabinet member have been proactive in getting Ministers involved and making it clear that Natural England have got to come up with some answers for us all as soon as possible. The website for the CDC has the up-to-date information on this item and Chichester is working with Horsham and Crawley to keep up to date with the situation.

Although Loxwood and not Plaistow and Ifold I know you have concerns about the application for what is called the Loxwood Claypits. This is a County application and I have been keeping in touch with our County Planning Officers. I was hoping that it would be dealt with in November when we had 2 meetings in the diary. The early November one was cancelled so I hoped for the 30th November meeting. When the papers came there was one application for another large facility for waste at Ford. For some reason it was decided that 2 such large and contentious applications could not be dealt with on the same day. Site visits etc were held for Ford and guess what they then withdrew the application. There is no Planning in December and I have put in a plea that it comes to the January meeting. Here's hoping.

Nothing new to report on Crouchlands Lagoon 3. I can't see an early solution to this problem I am afraid, but you know as much as I do. A rock and a hard place come to mind.

Budgets at both County and District are nearing completion and I can say that at County level, and I am sure the same will be for District our budget will balance for 21/22 without losing our Services. I wouldn't even like to predict for future years but at the moment it's looking tough. However, that's for the future.

There is a lovely Lego exhibition at the Novium museum using about 500K pieces of Lego. It's proving popular.

At County as usual an update on our Children's Services. I am pleased to say that a recent OFSTED is happy with our progress. We will have at least another OFSTED before the final one which will be the proper one with decisions on the improvements which we of course will hope to be Good. Well Outstanding would be better but we live in the real world, and we won't stop even then.

Some good news over our Solar Farms. I am sure you know that we have 2 purpose built Solar Farms. One at Tangmere and one at Westhampnett. The most up to date information is that Tangmere is producing 5.235MwH from 18thousand Panels. Westhampnett is 26 thousand Panels and is producing 7.285Mw.

It is preventing the release of 3 thousand tons of carbon and provides enough electricity to power 4.300 average homes for a year.

On top of this when Westhampnett was developed a fairly large Battery facility was included to store electricity when we were over producing. The other site is at Halewick Lane, Sompting and this is purely Battery Storage. The stored electricity is of course released to the National Grid as required.

The Planning application will soon be validated for the Broadbridge Heath site. As I've said before when this is built it will be used for training as well and other Fire Services in the Country will be able to hire the facilities.

There is much going on which you will pick up in Press reports etc and much of the District information revolves around Chichester itself. The 2 items you will see most is probably the A27 discussions and the redevelopment of the Southern Gateway in Chichester. There is some way to go before anything can be said about either issue.

You will know by now that the A285 from Petworth to Chichester is now open albeit with Traffic lights at the moment for single file traffic. However, it is expected to be open in both directions before Christmas much to everyone's relief.

It is that time of year to wish you all a very happy Christmas and a happy and healthy New Year.

I look forward to working together in 2022.

Janet Duncton

County Councillor Petworth division

Chichester District Councillor Loxwood ward.

