

LETTER FROM THE CHAIRMAN OF THE PARISH COUNCIL

We started our meeting with an extremely interesting talk from PC Lucas Kowaski from Sussex Police. He reported that in the last two months within the Rogate area there were 32 incidents reported including two road traffic collisions, two incidents blocking the A272, one burglary, one fraud, one suicide attempt, one assault, one suspicious activity and one false 999. He explained that the manning levels within the Police were such that we should look upon their service in the same way we see the Fire Service – they will respond to an incident but do not patrol looking for one. He explained that this is also because there are now many more ways to contact the Police and emphasised the importance of the 101 service. Every call is logged and the more information about our concerns or suspicions, the more likely resources will be directed our way. We asked about the problem of motorcycles speeding on the A272 at the weekends and he suggested that we should all notify the Police of every incident on their traffic website www.operationcrackdown.org so they can build up a picture and mount an operation.

As usual we had reports from Kate O’Kelly our District and County Councillor - these are also included in this issue. One aspect that the council felt strongly about was the amount of development being forced into Chichester District between the SDNPA area and the sea – in particular the Manhood peninsular and along the A259 to Emsworth. Councillors felt that the SDNPA authority should be accepting greater numbers of housing within the NP area so that villages such as Rogate and Rake might have more sustainable communities by being able to retain their shops, schools and pubs etc. An added concern is that the increased traffic on the A27 without any solution to the Chichester bypass will continue to force traffic, particularly HGVs, onto the A272.

We heard that the electricity company SSE is planning to divert underground the overhead power lines that cross Fyning Recreation Ground from Fyning Hill to Fyning Common. This will reduce the number of power cuts in that area significantly. Although there will be some initial disruption there will be long term benefits to the area.

I am pleased to say that our website rogateparishcouncil.gov.uk is back on stream but our email address is still not operating. In the meantime, our Clerk Debbie can be reached at harknettbookkeeping@virginmedia.com.

I repeat that if you have any ideas for new projects and improvements that the council could undertake or help with, then our Grants and Projects Working Group would like to hear about them – please contact me or our Clerk, Debbie.

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