

LETTER FROM THE CHAIRMAN OF THE PARISH COUNCIL

As you may have already heard, the bus services through Rogate have received a reprieve for the time being. The Parish Council has already commissioned new bus shelters for the A272 at Fyning and on Fyning Lane and, at last month's meeting, considered the replacement of the shelter in the centre of the village. We had been advised that the roof is asbestos and many of the panels and supports were rotting. We agreed to a proposal to replace the shelter with a new one designed and constructed by Ben Law (of Grand Designs fame) using local timber. Half the cost will be met by the South Downs National Park Authority.

The coppicing at Terwick Woodland has now been completed and we considered the plight of two large pine trees that have died – probably some years ago. We also heard about progress with the scheme to reduce the flooding in the lane to St Peters Church Terwick. Whilst we hope that the works can start soon there are a few administrative hurdles to clear first.

Last year I wrote about the initiative to clear our verges and hedgerow of accumulated litter. The idea is to collectively do this on the weekend when the clocks change – 30th and 31st March. The Parish Clean-Up Day would be part of the Against Litter campaign by Chichester District Council who can supply bags and hi-vis jackets. Please contact our Clerk for more information at clerk@rogateparishcouncil.gov.uk or 01730 300576.

We heard about problems with parked cars and vans associated with the Rogate Downhill cycling site at the Harting Combe crossroads, particularly on Sundays, and resolved to contact the organisers to see what solutions can be found.

The heavy snowfall at the beginning of February caused significant problems on the hill out of Rake towards Hillbrow. WSCC Highways assured us that the road had been salted three times on the Friday and twice on the Saturday, but still there were a number of accidents and tractors had to be used to move stranded vehicles. We resolved to purchase a grit bin and seek WSCC Highways approval to locate it on the hill.

There is growing momentum in the community to support Sussex Day in Rogate on Sunday 16th June following the Village Fete. Whilst thinking of dates, a reminder that the Annual Parish Meeting will be on 11 April at 7pm in Rogate Village Hall. This is an excellent opportunity to hear about what is happening in your community, for both newcomers and long-standing residents alike.

Another date is Thursday 2 May 2019 which will be election day. All current parish councillors wishing to continue will be up for re-election and anyone else can put themselves forward for election as well. It may be that we will have some vacancies so please consider whether you or someone you know would be interested in becoming a parish councillor. Nomination documents will be available from Rogate Village Shop.

Our meeting on 11th March will consider our response to the WSCC Consultation on Soft Sand Extraction Sites. There are three proposed sites and all will have an impact on the HGV movements along A272 especially through Rogate and its Conservation Area:

1 East of West Heath Common - south of A272 at Durleigh Marsh – a separate extension of the existing site;

2 Minsted West – south of A272 opposite Stedham – an extension of the existing site;

3 Several East and West – south of A272 and west of Midhurst – two new sites currently commercial forestry.

You can find more information about the proposals from WSCC at <https://www.westsussex.gov.uk/about-the-council/policies-and-reports/environment-planning-and-waste-policy-and-reports/minerals-and-waste-policy/soft-sand-review-consultation/>

If you wish to express any views about these proposals you can do it on the website above or send them to Planning Services (ref SSR), West Sussex County Council, County Hall, Chichester, PO19 1RH. Our MP Gillian Keegan is taking an active interest in these proposals, so you could also send your views to her at gillian.keegan.mp@parliament.uk.

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