

LETTER FROM THE CHAIRMAN OF THE PARISH COUNCIL

Unfortunately, our proposal to install a set of golf practice nets on the recreation ground in Rogate did not meet with approval from the village hall trustees but we will continue with the idea and try to deal with their concerns. In addition, we are also pursuing the idea for outdoor keep-fit equipment on Fyning and/or Rake Recreation Grounds and this idea has met with some support locally.

The parish council agreed to form a working party to investigate the parking problems in Rogate and evaluate possible solutions. We shall seek representations from the village hall, church and school.

We continue to maintain the playgrounds and will be replacing one of the poles on the swing in the Rogate playground and have applied for New Homes Bonus money to replace some or all of the fencing around the Hugo Platt playground. Next year we may need to replace all of the swing in Rogate. On Fyning Recreation Ground there are two dead trees that we have agreed to fell, leaving the wood for the wildlife.

Following the recent problems with the parish council website and email service, it was resolved that new providers would be commissioned. This will mean a new look for the website with some new features and dedicated emails for each of the councillors to use for parish business.

Our rural bus services are under threat and in previous issues both I and Kate O’Kelly have explained that WSCC wishes to reduce the subsidy for these services such that they may not continue. Part of the solution proposed by WSCC is that affected parish council should make up the funding shortfall. I have written to the WSCC Leader and to our MP to explain that such a proposal is completely unacceptable. The principal reason is that council taxpayers in the parish will pay twice for the same service. Once to WSCC whose responsibility it is to provide public transport especially to rural communities, and again to the parish council to undertake what WSCC has decided it cannot finance.

I repeat on earlier request - 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.

Steve Williamson 18 August 2019 01730 890225 or steve@thestepsrake.co.uk