

LETTER FROM THE CHAIRMAN OF THE PARISH COUNCIL

The Council was updated with the decisions of the SDNPA Planning Committee on 14 December 2017 to refuse the application at Dangstein Conservancy and to record that they had not been convinced the proposed uses of the site would not have a detrimental impact on the amenity of the neighbouring properties and the tranquillity of the area.

We received a request from a Rake resident to consider the lack of children's playground facilities in Rake and decided to ask the Rake Village Hall committee their views as a site there would be the most beneficial. I can report that the hall committee was amenable to the idea and identified an area to the south (left) of the hall as the most suitable. However, there are a considerable number of hurdles to cross, the first of which is the need to raise a significant amount of money. The second is that Rake Village Hall actually sits across the border in Liss parish, so a number of local authorities will need to be involved. Nonetheless, it is proposed to form a working group to pursue the project.



The British Legion is celebrating the 100th anniversary of the end of the First World War by making available a life-size Silent Soldier plaque to remember the 1.1 million British and Empire service men and women who did not return home after the war. The Council has agreed to obtain a Silent Soldier and will liaise with St Bartholomew's Church and others as to where it should be sited.

We have also heard that the Queen's Pageantmaster has announced that there will be a Centenary Beacon lit at Westminster Abbey on 11 November and is inviting communities across the country to hold their own remembrance ceremonies. Chichester DC is proposing that parish council's make and light their own beacons. Please let us know what you think of the idea.

When you read this the implementation of the WSCC Highways Rogate Shared Space Traffic Scheme should have started and details of the timing of the works is provided elsewhere in this issue. The Parish Council is providing additional trees to be planted and



two new entry signs either end of the village on the A272. The signs will show a copy of the 'Rogate Sign' that is in the churchyard behind a planter of shrubs and flowers. We would very much like to hear from keen gardeners and horticulturists with ideas on suitable plants and volunteers to maintain the planters.

Related to the scheme, the beech hedge that fronts the cemetery in Rogate either side of the Lych Gate has grown over the years to encroach onto the road and obscure the Lych Gate. In order to open up the view of the wonderful wooden Lych Gate and the cemetery the hedge will be significantly cut back on the road side and the top. This will look a bit brutal initially, but beech easily grows back from cut wood and so in the spring will look a lot better.