

LETTER FROM THE CHAIRMAN OF THE PARISH COUNCIL

Well, what a difference a month makes! We are now immersed in a period of great uncertainty as a result of the Coronavirus pandemic. On the plus side there are strong signs of the community pulling together. Help and support groups have been formed in both Rogate and Rake with volunteers willing to help the elderly and vulnerable with shopping, prescriptions etc or even just a chat. There are details on the parish council and the Rogate village websites or phone 01730 890225 for Rogate and 01730 892285 for Rake. Local suppliers such as Rogate Village Stores, Durleighmarsh Farm Shop, Flying Bull pub and General Wine Company (and there are probably many more) are offering free deliveries. So, if you need any assistance at all during this trying time, please do not hesitate to reach out for it as there are many people willing to help.

I know that many people are getting in extra groceries (and possibly over-stocking) but spare a thought for those dependant on food banks and try to give them something to help those in most need.

As far as the Parish Council is concerned, we have had to cancel all of our upcoming meetings as councillors have to be physically present and meetings have to be open to the general public. Alternative, temporary, arrangements may be made and we will keep you posted.

The Annual Parish Meeting in May will probably also be cancelled but we will ask for written reports to be submitted instead. We have also had to cancel the Litter Picking day which we hope can be re-arranged for later in the year.

We did manage a meeting at the beginning of March and suspected it may have been the last for a while. Although we had further discussions on the siting of the Outdoor Gym we did not reach a consensus and will meet with the Village Hall Committee again.

We heard that seven sites for the Speed Indicator Signs have been agreed with WSCC Highways in both Rake and Rogate. Further work is needed to get the final permissions and it was agreed in principle that we would buy one SID sign subject to satisfactory quotes.

We heard about the proposal to merge the Rogate and Rake Primary Schools into one Downland Village Schools Federation and fully supported the initiative and its aims and objectives.

Please stay safe during this emergency and heed the clear advice to keep person-to-person social contacts to an absolute minimum. It will be difficult for many, but there are also many who are willing and able to help – just ask.

Steve Williamson
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