

LETTER FROM THE CHAIRMAN OF THE PARISH COUNCIL

We had our June Council meeting via video conferencing and again, it was a reduced agenda as so much is on hold at the moment. A further impact of the current problems is that councillor Carolyn Butler has decided to resign as her business interests now take up all her available time. We wish her well and thank her for her work on the Council. So, we have other vacancy to fill and will have to consider how we manage to the appointment process with the restrictions. If you are interested or know someone who might be then please get in touch with me or our Clerk, Debbie.

We discussed the problem of traffic noise on the A272, particularly motorbikes and at weekends. One of our councillors, Adrian Collins, joined a meeting with WSCC and other parishes to consider what could be done. Whilst everyone recognises the problem, solutions require Police enforcement and that requires admissible evidence, which in turn requires volunteers to gather it.

We heard that our earlier efforts to resolve the on-street parking problems at the B1KE Downhill facility in Harting Coombe have borne fruits, in that Forestry England, who own the land, have opened up an area for parking above the site and accessed off Coombe Road. There is no longer parking on the roadside but an area along the road near Hillbrow has been used resulting in a lot of litter.

There has been a bit of progress to resolve the poor state of the footway along the A272 from Garbitts Lane to the Renault Garage. WSCC had a group of volunteers that undertake small jobs and the work has been added to their list.

On planning matters, CDC has decided not to post notices of planning applications at the relevant site but ask that the applicant does so. Unfortunately this has not been happening and so neighbours are unaware of the application. We have lobbied CDC to get this ruling changed and they will now post them if we tell them the applicant has not – which we will do. However, you can always check what applications are current in the parish by going to our website which shows these on a map.

Following the theft of one of our grit bins earlier this year we have undertaken to mark our remaining 12 bins with our name.

Our financial accounts for 2019/20 have been finalised and audited and we agree the Annual Governance Statement and the general Accounting Statements. These can be viewed on our website.

Finally, a reminder that if you need help during this extended crisis, the numbers are 07788 568641 or 07748 320237 and if you just want to chat to someone then call Elizabeth on 01428 725545. Should you need any assistance, please do not hesitate as there are many people willing to help.

Steve Williamson
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