

Chairman's letter October

I open this month with the sad news that Fiona Dix has resigned from the council, Fiona has been a Councillor for 15 years. In that time she has made a significant impact on the work the council undertakes, this includes leading the project to save the school in 2006, leading the work to make the village centre safer, the building of the steps in Garbett's lane for the children to safely access the forest school and, of course, pulling together the buddy system in March at the outbreak of Covid. This is only a short list of the projects she has been involved in. We understand her personal reasons and wish Fiona well for the future.

Be warned, from this point on we are after help. In line with many of the surrounding villages we are finding it difficult to recruit new councillors. In an article later in the magazine, an Ex-Chairman's indulgence you will read the value of the Parish Council and how it allows us to do small but vital things for the village and the threat that looms if we lose that local representation. We are looking for individuals who represent different parts of the village and different groups, this allows a mix of views that represent the community. So please, if you feel you can help call me, or Debbie the Clerk. Would stress everyone can bring a valuable view on the way the village is developed.

In last month's magazine the arrival of the new outdoor gym was announced, this was a little premature as the installation was delayed by 2 weeks, but the gym is now in place and ready to use. An opening event is being planned on the recreation ground, when our MP Gillian Keegan is going to open the gym. The gym is free for all to use, enjoy and get fit. Many thanks to Elena McCloskey for spearheading this project and the support of the Village Hall and generous donations.

Road matters: We have received complaints about potholes and rough surface along the road to St. Peter's Church, Terwick. We have also received complaints about the use of large lorries along Habin Lane. In both cases we don't have direct control over highways issues but we have raised the problems with the relevant authorities and will work with Kate O'Kelly the District and County Councillor to try and resolve the issues. We are aware that Highways take notice of comments on their www.love.westsussex.gov.uk web site - you can help if you follow this link and report the problem. The same applies if you have other concerns, including potholes. The more complaints the more notice highways take of the issue!

Some of you may have noticed that we now have a new Speed Indicator Sign (SID) in place in Rake – thank you to Adrian Collins for spearheading this project. This speed sign is portable and will soon be appearing in other locations around the villages of Rake and Rogate. Nudge, hint, push, we are looking for a small group of people to help manage the speed signs along the A272 in Rogate. This is simply replacing the battery in the sign and taking the sign off its bracket and moving the sign to a new location. As I talk to people in the village speed and noise on the A272 is a matter of concern.

In the recent round of hedge and grass cutting one of the grit bins was destroyed by grass cutting tractor. It was a sunny day; hence several people witnessed the mishap. We have contacted the WSCC contractor and a new bin is on the way.

The council is currently pulling together the information required to set the budget for 2021/22 and to allow us to do that we are looking at our plans for work next year. This is an opportunity for the people in the village to talk to us about any project or improvements we can make around the village. If you have any comments, please call or email me or any of the Councillors. Even better why not join us and participate directly?

Max Harwood