

Chairman's letter

Firstly, this month I would like to welcome Deidre Walkling to the Parish Council and thank her for joining and providing much needed support. Deidre joined our January zoom meeting; we hope one day it will be possible for members of the council to meet in person again.

On the Parish Council website, we have links to the various COVID help schemes that are being offered by West Sussex and Chichester. Please look, they may be of benefit to you or somebody you know.

Last month I briefly mentioned the pub. A quick update, the feasibility study was carried out on the 19th January. Work is going on to form a working group if the feasibility study is positive. By next month's editions we will know whether work has started to put forward a bid in May. Please complete the village survey, downloads available on the Parish Council website and paper documents are being circulated. Would stress this survey is not just about the pub but more of a vision for the village and how services such as the village hall can reflect the needs in the village.

Work has continued on gaining support for keeping the path open at the side of the White Horse. We have around 20 completed forms so far and plan one last push this month before sending the forms to West Sussex for the next stage of the process.

Other work completed this month. Over the past two years we have been gradually repairing the historic finger posts we have around the Parish. Our last finger post has been dug from the ground at the junction of Bull Hill and Canhouse Lane, thanks to Steve Williamson for a lot of hard work. We have now instructed Ralph Restorations to obtain/make replacements for the parts that have rotted away and a refurbished post should be in place in the next few months.

We have been working with WSCC and local landowners to agree the work required to alleviate the flooding that occurs on the Nyewood Road near Sandhill Farm. The final steps to agree a £50,000+ project are now complete and we have been awarded the grant. It is hoped work will be completed in February. Steve Williamson has been leading this work under the WSCC Operation Watershed scheme with support from Kate O'Kelly, our County Councillor.

By now most of you will have encountered the speed indicator device (SID). It has been well received but we have both Rake and Rogate to cover, with that in mind we have now ordered a second device, which means we can cover the areas more frequently. This work has been led by Adrian Collins and he has written an article in the magazine with more detail of the data provided by the sign.

WSCC Highways have just issued their planned programme of works for the year 2021/22. It's very good news to see that the Rake Community Highways Scheme remains on track as it is scheduled as a 'build' project in the WSCC works programme for the year'

Hopefully a brighter 2021 awaits.

Max Harwood, January 2021