

Rogate Parish Council – letter from the Chairman April 2021

It is with great sadness that I have to report the death of Pauline Berisford-Hill. Pauline served for many years as a Parish Councillor. My time with her on the council was short, but she was a thoughtful, caring and someone who was always cheerful. She will be sadly missed.

The Neighbourhood plan is finally reaching the home straight and we are pleased to confirm that The South Downs National Park Decision Statement on the Rogate & Rake Neighbourhood Development Plan has been agreed and was published on their SDNPA website on the 19th April 2021 and is also available to view on the parish council website. This Decision Statement confirms that the modifications proposed by the Examiner's report have been accepted, that the Neighbourhood Development Plan has been altered as a result of it and that this revised document (including post examination modifications) may now proceed to referendum. The Decision Statement is also available to view, by appointment at the South Downs Centre, North Street, Midhurst, West Sussex, GU29 9DH. Please contact 01730 814810 to make an appointment. The Referendum is being arranged and is scheduled to take place on 1st July 2021, further information will be available shortly. Thank you to everyone who was involved and special thanks to Councillor Steve Williamson. Believe it or not the first meeting to discuss the plan was 14th March 2013 with the first submission to the SDNP 4th December 2015. A monumental effort by Steve and everyone involved. So please vote in the referendum.

The Parish Council have met with the group working on saving the pub. The group have a plan, that with support from the village, could save the pub as a community asset. Please keep an eye out for newsletters over the next few weeks setting out the requirements. Suspect pledges for contributions will be requested. Sure, we will all appreciate a refreshing drink if the pub can be opened during the summer.

Allied with the pub purchase we are pressing ahead with the footpath application behind the White Horse. We have over 35 forms at present and they have been deposited with West Sussex to support this application.

In the last letter a litter pick was mentioned. The date has been set for 8th May, further details available later in the magazine. Hopefully as many people as possible can spare a little time to help keep our village tidy; if you are unable to join on the day please help 'do your bit' when you are able.

In the April magazine we advertised for someone to look after the planters either end of the village. The Garden club have kindly stepped forward with support. Thank you and we look forward to seeing your designs.

After reporting last month that we have now restored all the finger posts in the village the finger post on the T junction of Fyning Lane and Dangstien Road has been sprayed blue by Southern Water. We are contacting Southern Water to ask them to correct the new and less appealing colour scheme.

Lastly the Parish Council have been busy with planning this month. Details of all the applications are available on our website – www.rogateparishcouncil.gov.uk.

This winter has proved frustrating, hopefully we can look forward to the spring, better weather and a virus in retreat.

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