

## Rogate Parish Council – Chairman’s letter

I start this month with the same subject, which opened last month's letter - the Neighbourhood Plan referendum. By the time you read this you will have seen the banners around Rake and Rogate, you will have your voting slips. In the June magazine we included the important points of the plan in advance of the referendum. Please vote on Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> July - it helps define the future of Rake and Rogate.

Our MP, Gillian Keegan, asked for nominations for her local Community Hero Award and we were pleased to propose Ann Arnold. Gillian made the award in early June. Ann kept the shop going at a difficult period and it is due to her efforts we still have a shop and post office. Her fund-raising efforts include, £50,000 for the children playground, £58,000 for the church roof, £30,000 for the heritage centre and grants to support the youth club. She has been a Parish Councillor, ran the flower-show for 5 years, a youth leader and a church warden in her time in the village. More recently she has provided financial support to help the campaign to keep the pub open. The youth club has been through a difficult time recently but for Ann this has been a work in progress and it is expected to re-open shortly. And if you have an interest or lucky enough to be young enough, please support the youth club.

I know that some people have been frustrated with the SDNP planning department, in particular not sending out neighbour notification letters and enforcement. We, together with Kate O’Kelly, are pushing hard to reinstate the notification letters. We are also pushing for greater clarification and more timely action from enforcement.

A massive thank you to the garden club, they kindly offered to look after the planters in Rogate. The new plants have now had a few weeks to establish themselves and look fantastic. Please make time to take a look.

Back in the time when we thought Covid might be restricted to China we asked the West Sussex Volunteers if they would build a shelter near the Flying Bull for the children waiting for the Bohunt school bus and to repair the seat in the Dell. The volunteers suspended their usual work during the lockdowns concentrating on Covid related projects. They have now resumed and have set a date to start work on our projects at the end of June. If you see them please welcome them, they are a great group of volunteers who do a valuable job across Sussex.

The Parish Council is just starting to think about its 2022/23 budget. This needs to be firmed up in December. If you are a village organisation or group we can consider small grants to help with projects but cannot support running costs. Please contact the Parish Council for more information or a form.

By way of a reminder, the District Council continue to offer businesses COVID grants. Details on Chichester District Council and our websites.

Now I write this almost every month. If anyone one has a hankering to support the village we have a couple of vacancies on the Parish Council. Please feel free to apply.

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