

## Rogate Parish Council – Chairman’s letter

For the third month in a row I start this letter with news of the referendum on the 1<sup>st</sup> July and am very pleased to confirm that our neighbourhood plan was accepted. The plan will now be taken into account when planning decisions are made. This is good news as it gives us some control over development within the village. Many thanks to all who voted and especially those who gave up time to prepare and complete the plan.

For a while now I have been mentioning that we have asked to reduce the number of councillors from 13 to 9. Our application is set to be heard by the CDC boundary commission on the 20<sup>th</sup> July. Fingers crossed the application is approved though the reduction would not come into force until the May 2023 elections. Meanwhile, we still have vacancies so if you are interested please talk to any councillor or the Clerk.

The Rake Community Highways Scheme project remains in the WSCC Highways schedule for delivery this financial year. A major step in the project was the formal notification by Chichester CDC of the proposed reduction in the speed limit through Rake from 40mph to 30mph. Consultation on this closed on the 15<sup>th</sup> July. We are expecting the change to be approved and then be informed when the implementation phase of the project is to commence.

The Parish Council is to acquire an additional Speed Indicator Device (SID) the cost of which has been sponsored entirely by donation from local residents of Rogate Road (near the Flying Bull/Durford Wood). The new SID will be sited on 2 new posts to be installed on this increasingly busy road. We are in the process of securing the necessary consents from WSCC Highways, Regrettably and somewhat surprising, consents for new SID locations have terms which reduce by a third the total amount of days per year that SID can be deployed in any one location. Fortunately, this change is not retrospective and will not affect our existing SID sites in Hillbrow, Rake and Rogate on the B2070 and A272.

Continuing on the topic of traffic speed and noise, we are sometimes asked what more can be done other than to add to the pressure being applied to Sussex Police by every council in west and east Sussex for more enforcement. Our experience of the Rake Community Highways Scheme and its Community Speedwatch Group and latterly, the deployment of SID illustrate that community involvement is a key factor in their success. So, if you would like to get involved by volunteering to assist with SID or create a community led initiative, the Parish Council would be keen to hear from you.

We together with Kate O’Kelly, have met with residents of North Street to discuss the flooding problems and investigate solutions. If anybody has any information or photos of recent or older events please let us know – [clerk@rogateparishcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@rogateparishcouncil.gov.uk).

In last Month’s letter I mentioned that the wooden bench on the A272 was being repaired and a new shelter was being built for the school children near the Flying Bull. This work was being carried out by the Sussex volunteer group but sadly due to illness the work has been delayed and we await new dates.

Finally, as a reminder, it's really good news the Youth Club in Rogate is to start up again so do let them know if you would like to assist.

Max Harwood, Chairman