

Rogate Parish Council – Chairman's letter

As it is the holiday season things have been quiet but we are starting to look towards the autumn months and what needs to be done. We have woodland management plans for all the open spaces owned by the Parish Council. In Terwick Wood two of the outstanding items are thinning the scotch pine and taking out some of the holly at the northern end of the wood. We are speaking to contractors about the pine with the plan to select individual trees and ensure minimal disruption to the wood. We are also organising two days of holly clearance. Whilst on the subject of our open spaces, Fyning Recreation ground's glade has been cleared for the summer. It looks fantastic, please go and take a look.

Talking trees we have reports of a couple with Dutch Elm disease in the village - can I suggest you check any elm trees you have? The West Sussex council footpath teams have a 15-month cycle to clear the paths in each of the parishes. Our clearance was due in July and August but due to contractor difficulties we are awaiting our visit. The paths are currently overgrown, so if you have any particular problems, please let us know. If you can support the request with a picture that would be helpful.

We are now starting to think about the Parish Council budget for 2022/23. If you have any proposed projects please get in touch. Also, we will be considering grant applications at our October meeting so please let us have details of any requests.

In last month's letter I floated the idea of a road traffic group. This is a strange one, almost every person I talk to has a view on road traffic in the parish, more especially in the summer months. We wait to hear when the traffic calming road works programmed for this financial year are to commence on the old A3 in Rake. It is worth pointing out that this project is the result of a 'community highways scheme' developed by an active group of residents in Rake supported by the Parish Council. I mentioned in my letter last month our keenness to hear from who would like to form such a group with concerns about road safety issues elsewhere in the Parish. Pulling together a group is proving difficult. As illustrated by Rake, those areas that have a demonstrable level of community concern and support for traffic calming measures are more likely to succeed in making changes. The Parish Council is ready to support a group but without active community involvement it will be difficult to achieve success.

Unfortunately, the person who looked after the Hugo Platt playground for years has been forced to give up for health reasons; many thanks to Alan Goodwin for his support over so many years. We now have a vacancy if anyone is interested?

To finish, we are short by one councillor is you would like to get involved, please get in contact.

Max Harwood, Chairman