

## Rogate Parish Council – Chairman’s letter

Following our second in person meeting it feels like things are getting back to normal. Well, as normal as possible when everyone is spaced out and the meeting starts at 5pm. Our next meeting is on Monday 13th December at 5.30 in Rogate Village Hall. It will, again be an open meeting where members of the public can speak at any time. In addition to this a date for the diary. - the 2022 Annual Parish Meeting has been scheduled Thursday 7th April 2022 starting at 7.00pm. Due to Covid restrictions we haven’t held this meeting for 2 years, much to catch up on and we look forward to seeing you.

Following on from last month’s letter the Rake Community Highways Scheme has slightly overrun but will soon be completed and, as previously mentioned, the speed limit outside the school will be dropping from 40 to 30 mph. A welcome change, particularly to those associated with the school.

Road matters were covered in some depth at our October meeting. One issue that came out was some road signs are no longer regularly cleaned. We have found that for routine road work of this kind the Parish Council has little additional influence over the work that highways carries out and we, like members of the public, use the [www.lovesussexgov.uk](http://www.lovesussexgov.uk) website. Our suspicion is that the more people who post a comment on lovesussex the more highways will take notice. My plea would be, if you spot a problem, please let us know but also post your comments on lovesussex.

We continue to carry out work around the Parish.

We have approved some gorse clearance at Oliver’s Piece. The gorse is starting to block view. The work is due to be carried out in late November and may involve a small disruption to the bank. By the time you read this this work should have been completed. Additionally, we have approved the installation of a handrail and replacement steps to help make the access easier. Hopefully this will help more people enjoy the amazing views.

In Terwick Wood the holly grubbing has now been completed and this should help the cleared areas to regenerate. The next stage is to thin the pine trees, this work is scheduled to start late winter, early spring. The goal is to gently manage the wood and leave the wildlife undisturbed. Please take a walk - it is stunning this time of the year.

West Sussex Council have a project to make 20 wildlife verges in the county. 10 of the areas have already been approved, of the remaining 10 schemes the Eco Rother Action group in our area have identified the wide verge on the A272 at Terwick as a possible site. At our meeting we gave support to this and hope the ERA project will be selected.

In closing, please have a great Christmas.

Max Harwood, Chairman