

Rogate Parish Council – Chairman's letter

Best wishes for the new year.

You will recall from the December letter that we are seeking clarification from Rogate and Terwick Housing Association (R&THA) around plans to transfer East Lodge and 8 properties on Hugo Platt to Petersfield Housing Association. The parish council has had a number of approaches from shareholders, residents and parishioners with concerns around the current need for housing in the parish and whether local people will still have priority as well as giving away ownership of the sites. Many factors are at play here, R&THA are doing a great job but professional support would undoubtedly be required to handle the workload and changing legislation. We (along with other shareholders) are in discussion with R&THA and have asked them to delay the final proposal vote for us to better understand what is involved and for them to consider other options. If you are interested in this please contact myself or the Clerk to discuss.

We have been advised that a ultra-marathon event will be jogging through the parish on the Saturday 9th April. The planned route (starting in Haslemere) runs along Dangstien road via the bike track, following the route of the Serpent Trail. It then turns north on the border path on Sandy Lane, Rake. The expectation is around 500 runners. We have had no suggestion of road closures and expect the route will be marshalled and sign posted. The signposts will go up the day before the event and removed the next day. More information www.ultra-x.co/spring-trail-series/

We have received a letter from Midhurst Town Council, they, as well as Harting Parish Council and Kate O'Kelly are questioning Southern Water on the discharge of sewage into the River Rother. The unattended discharge at the Harting water treatment station was highlighted in a Times article. We have offered support.

Garbett's Wood has a number of mature ash trees that have died as a result of ash die back disease. The Woodland Trust are due to carry out work to fell the dead trees before the nesting season. It is hoped disruption can be kept to a minimum.

Max Harwood, Chairman