

Rogate Parish Council Chairman's letter

February has been a surprisingly busy month.

At the top of the agenda has been the condition of the roads. The winter weather has taken its toll and regular users of Fyning Lane will have noticed the southern end of the lane has been partially repaired but the middle of the lane has badly deteriorated. With the support of Kate O'Kelly we have organised a meeting with highways in early March to discuss Fyning Lane and hopefully problems with a number of other roads in the Parish. Included in this list are: the regular damage to Habin Bridge; damage to the wall by Rogate Church; condition of St Peter's Lane to Terwick Church; condition of Durford Lane towards West Harting - If you are aware of any other roads in disrepair we should add to this list please let me know. An urgent request has been made to sort out Fyning Lane.

Progress has been made in respect of the flooding in North Street, a plan has been put forward and circulated to residents and approved. We have put the work out to tender. Once we have the tenders back we can make the necessary grant application and, if successful, hope for repairs later in the year.

A second 'Supporting You' event is being held on Monday 6th March in Rogate Village Hall from 6-8pm. Based on the feedback from the team giving advice at the last event, they were able to help a number of people with advice and extra benefits in these difficult times. This is totally confidential; the team are specialists from Chichester District Council and if you feel they can help you please come along or call 01243 534860 if you are unable to attend. Coffee and biscuits on offer if that helps swing the decision.

We have been working with the village hall committee and the Sussex Clubs for Young People to look at options to reopen the youth club. The Sussex Clubs for Young People have a purple bus, which is a fully equipped mobile youth club and we are considering options to invite the bus to visit the village one night a week for a term as a trial. If you feel you have any expertise or views it would be great to hear them.

A couple of grants this month, we have awarded Little Angels £150 to help with running costs - this is a widely used and important weekly event. We have also awarded £250 to the Rogate village group organising the Coronation celebrations. As with the jubilee, we are open to consider any additional small requests. We are also expecting an offer of a £250 grant from the Chichester District Council for a more permanent memorial - the Jubilee grant went towards the community orchard at Rogate Village Hall. Any suggestions for this grant money gratefully received – it would be a shame to miss out because of a lack of ideas.

To close, we have elections on the 4th May. If you feel you would like to put forward new projects and help on the Parish Council to support initiatives around the Parish now is an excellent time to put your name forward. The Parish Council is non-political and its aim is to support the Parish. New councillors, new ideas, fresh input are important. And please remember at the election this year you will need to show photographic identification.

Max
Chairman, Rogate Parish Council