

Rogate Parish Council Chairman's letter

In last month's letter I referenced a meeting with Highways. We have now held that meeting, joined by Kate O'Kelly, and it proved useful and hopefully we will see some action. We received reports of potholes and poor road conditions from Slade Lane, Terwick Lane and Dangstein Road. All these comments were passed to Highways and we understand they will be looked at and addressed. We walked most of Fyning Lane and were advised a lot of potholes have been repaired but appear to wash out because of a spring running down the road. They will repair more and two very poor sections will be scheduled for specialist treatment in the summer when the road is dry. We discussed the possibility of an Operation Watershed scheme to look at the spring, supported by Highways, but the cost may make it unviable. Advice is to report all potholes through WSCC website and include a photo and What3Words location if possible.

The meeting then moved to the Rogate Village Hall when we were joined by a couple of parishioners. A number of issues were discussed including large lorries damaging the church wall, continued damage to Haben Bridge (a listed monument), and traffic calming. Highways were positive about the traffic calming and this may influence the other issues. Based on Highways suggestion a proposal is being worked on to put forward a Traffic Regulation Order application for 20mph in Fyning Lane with a longer-term aim to prepare the larger Community Highways Scheme for 20mph in Rogate village centre. If successful, both schemes will introduce speed limits and the CHS other traffic calming measures. The rules around the introduction of speed limits in Sussex have recently changed to make these scales easier to apply for, but we still need to get our heads round the rules. If you feel you can get involved, after all it is a community effort, please get in touch.

I suspect most of you have noticed the large number of heavy sand lorries travelling along the A272. A parishioner raised this issue with Kate O'Kelly apparently many of the lorries are travelling to and from the Pendean Quarry site. Restrictions apply, max 220 lorries in and 220 lorries out per week, daily average 44 in and out, max over the average 6. Lorries not to travel in convoy. We are told this has been monitored and found to be satisfactory.

North Street flooding prevention scheme has progressed to the next stage after much discussion with residents. An application for a grant has been submitted to WSCC Highways a contractor chosen. If we are successful in obtaining the grant it is likely the work will be carried out during the school summer holidays. The disruption will be noticeable for a period as North Street will be closed during the day for 3 weeks and subject to traffic light control for a further 4 weeks.

Footpaths. Every 15 months West Sussex send out a team to check/clear our local footpaths. For our parish the next clearance is due in May. We have been asked to advise of any damage to paths that needs to be repaired. If you have any details please pass on. A What3Word location and a picture would be helpful.

Emergency WhatsApp group. We have been working with Rogate Village Hall to put in place a plan to use the hall for emergencies. We are arranging for the hall to be able to connect to a generator and open to give assistance when required. The next stage is to put together an emergency WhatsApp group who can get together should an emergency arise to consider what help/action is necessary. To do this we need volunteers from all areas of the community to be part of the group. Please let us know if you would like to be involved.

So, the possibility of another Operation Watershed scheme, Traffic regulation order application and another community highways scheme. It is good to have parishioners involved but, the PC also needs more members in order to be able to support these and other schemes – please consider joining the council at the upcoming May elections. Contact me or the Clerk for information.

Max
Chairman, Rogate Parish Council