

## Rogate Parish Council Chairman's letter

Have just reread the article from last month and see that it mentions the long dry spell. Well, it appears that I don't need to perform a rain dance, just simply refer to dry weather and the rain will fall. Will approach the subject with more care in future.

We were very disappointed to learn the wildflower patch by the entrance to Parsonage Estate had been cut back without permission – its creation was a partnership with residents, SDNP, WSCC Highways and the parish council. It had taken time and money to create the area over the last two years and 75% has been destroyed. WSCC Highways had checked the height of the flowers and were happy they didn't cause a danger to road users. More elsewhere in the magazine.

Unfortunately, the work in North Street to alleviate the flooding in heavy rain has been delayed because of other demands on Hampshire highways (which form part of the division route during the road closure). Work will go ahead when necessary road closure permissions have been obtained, probably starting at the end of September. The contractors will be repairing the existing drain and laying a new drain, this should take the water away more efficiently and stop the current flooding problem.

We have for some time been discussing with the Rogate Village Hall the options for using the hall as a refuge in the event of a prolonged power cut. Our original plan was to provide the hall with the electrical infrastructure to accept a generator and then hire or borrow a generator to power the hall. This would allow the heating to operate and provide hot drinks and an opportunity to charge electrical devices. Unfortunately, insurers have made this simple process difficult. We, along with representatives of the hall and church are looking at other options but at present it appears this goal may be impossible to achieve.

As part of our woodland management plan, we intend to thin out some of the pine trees in Terwick Wood. We are in the process of sorting out access to the wood for the collection of the timber and currently planning for work to start in late summer. Whilst the work is in progress there may be a little disruption.

We have supported James Stock's application for a Community Highways Scheme to create a 20mph zone in the village centre which he has successfully submitted ahead of the deadline. We thank him for his hard work and wait for the next stage.

We had a positive meeting with the new CEO of PHA Homes who is putting East Lodge development plans on hold to give time to completely review their proposals and opportunities to improve the existing provision.

Max  
Chairman, Rogate Parish Council