

Rogate Parish Council Chairman's letter

The months are rolling along, some projects reach completion, others are underway and new ones to consider.

The project in North Street, Rogate with the drainage is now completed and finished on target. We have had a number of positive reports from the residents about the contractors and the work has been well tested with the rain recently. One to tick off.

As a result of the North Street work, Landbuild the contractor has visited the drainage and spring issues we have in Fyning Lane. This is a tricky problem as we have a natural spring, which flows into the lane and the existing drainage has been blocked for years as it doesn't appear to be able to flow anywhere other than down the lane. Landbuild made some suggestions and we are waiting to see the proposals.

We were contacted by residents on Parsonage about Hyde, the housing provider, selling one of the houses on the estate on the open market. This is of concern as it reduces the housing stock in the village available to rent. We have since learnt this practice was happening in many of the villages across the Downs, including Milland, Harting and Stedham. As a consequence, we contacted Hyde and arranged a joint meeting with other parishes and our District Councillor representatives. At the meeting we learnt that, yes, Hyde did have a policy to look at each house as it came up for renting and they were selectively selling some properties. However they have now stopped all such sales except where the cost of refurbishment to relet was exceptionally high. And we understand they are considering removing this exception and not selling any houses. This first meeting was to understand the situation and open up a channel of communication. These goals have been achieved with a further meeting planned next year.

A resident contacted us about some repairs required to the slide and the fence at the Hugo Platt playground. Councillor Adrian Collins has kindly volunteered to carry out the work with the cost of materials being met by the council; a massive saving over employing a specialist. Many, many thanks Adrian. Also many thanks to the local residents who look after the bus shelters, the playgrounds and the various recreational and woodland areas. Without everyone pulling together we would be lost.

We agreed on the budget for 2024/5. We are very aware of the rise in the cost of living but, as with everything else, inflation has also caught up with us, but we felt we could hold the increase to 5%. This should allow us to carry on with the jobs we currently carry out and have planned.

We have received a number of letters from residents around the operation of Pumpkin Patch and water run-off from fields in the village. These letters were also sent directly to the County Council Highways and Planning. We would like to work towards resolving the issue and ensuring that Pumpkin Patch can continue to be successful.

To close this month's article. The Parish Council operates as a link to the County and District Councils, if you are aware of any difficulties, flooding for example, please let us know.

Wishing you a great Christmas,

Max
Chairman, Rogate Parish Council