

Rogate Parish Council Chairman's letter

A number of things to report this month.

A big welcome to David Seddon who was co-opted on to the Parish Council at our last meeting. I am sure David will bring many skills and broaden the experience of the Council. Only one place left, applications please.

The bulb planting is complete. You may recall Chichester District Council were offering grants to celebrate the Coronation. We applied and were successful in obtaining money to buy spring bulbs to plant around the Parish. A big thank you to Laura Craven for organising the project and an additional thank you to all those who were out planting in Rake, Oliver's Piece, schools, Rogate Church, Haben and Rogate Hall. To compliment this, we gave a grant to supply wildflowers at Rake Recreation Ground. Steve Williamson and a group of residents organised the planting. Expect a stunning show of colour in the spring.

Whist on the subject of wildflowers I would like to mention the planting on the verge at the entrance to the Parsonage. This area is managed by Nick Heasman, SDNP with the intention of providing a display of wildflowers and helping the wildlife. This year the wildflowers were mowed back (without permission) a little early. This caused some concern and we would like to avoid it happening again. We are assured the oxeye daisies will have less nourishment next year and will be smaller. The area has now been mowed for the winter and with Nick's help we should have an array of colour next year. Thanks Nick.

Drainage in North Street. This work is to alleviate flooding and is being undertaken with the help of a grant we obtained from West Sussex County Council. Work is progressing well and by the time you read this we are hopeful North Street will be open again but traffic light control may be in operation for around 3 weeks.

Another piece of good news. We have been working with Rogate Village Hall committee to find a way to use the hall as a warm space in the event of a sustained power outage. We had originally worked on the basis of the Parish Council and the George Street Trust paying to convert the hall electrics to accept a generator and then hiring or borrowing a generator. In early summer we heard that SSE were offering grants for such projects. Following a joint application Rogate Hall has been awarded £5,000, to convert the electrics and buy a generator. We only learned of the successful application earlier in the month, a few things to sort out. The hall will supply the heating oil, the Parish Council will cover the cost of the fuel to run the generator.

The Rogate Village Hall playground. As the playground equipment gets older our annual repair bill increases, this year we decided that now may be a good time to take measures to preserve the equipment. As a result, we are going to have the wood items of play equipment treated to ensure that it last longer. We don't have a date for when the work will take place (late October/November) but it will require the playground to be closed for a couple of weekends.

The post box on the corner of Fyning Lane and Terwick Lane. A number of residents have mentioned this post box has become difficult to access. We asked the Post Office what would be required to move it to the corner of Terwick Rise. The reply from the PO was strange, they said if it wasn't moved in 6 months, the move wouldn't happen. We are still within the 6 months, nothing from the PO, but they have applied for planning permission. We are taking this as tentative support for the move.

To close. We need to pull together our 2024/25 budget in the next few weeks, last chance for grant applications.

And finally, it is great the White Horse is open again, we wish it every success. It is pity rules prevent us rotating our monthly meeting around the 3 excellent pubs in our parish.

Max
Chairman, Rogate Parish Council