

## **County Report for Rogate Annual Parish Meeting 18<sup>th</sup> April 2024**

### **Highways**

This is the overriding issue and dominates my inbox. The recent period has involved unprecedented amount of rain and the state of roads across the County is shocking. The Cabinet member for Highways assures us all that they have invested in better kit including the new jet patchers and they are having more roving teams who repair defects and will look to repair the nearby defects at the same time. This is a continual gripe for residents as historically if the nearby defects weren't bad enough they were left unrepaired.

It is a story of long term under investment in maintenance and budget pressures on Adults and Childrens services. Our group have been advocating more budget to maintenance but also more capital allocated to Operation Watershed which is the fund that parishes can apply to, to investigate flooding and poor drainage issues. If these are resolved then the Highway is less likely to break down with potholes as we have seen.

I have been working with Debbie to report and highlight issues related to Highways across the parish, do keep letting me know what is occurring so I can put more pressure on them to respond. The context is a very large county and they have had significant staffing issues in the team I am told, with one senior area manager leaving recently at short notice.

### **HASC**

I sit on the health and adults social care committee at WSCC, we recently scrutinised the downgrade by CQC from Outstanding to Requires Improvement at St Richards, we also reviewed the update on the ambulance service.

The health leaders are working to decrease the backlog of waiting times for planned surgery, the ambulance service presented their improvement plans. They have made significant progress related to their Category 2 (heart attack and Stroke) emergency response times. The cancer referral to diagnosis times have improved but the time to treatment is still in many cases taking longer than their target.

The leaders admitted the backlog for planned treatment and for emergency treatment was causing significant harm.

### **Full Council**

At our Full Council in March we debated 2 motions.

#### **One Motion on property disposal**

Calling for more coordination with local planning authority and more engagement with local members and stakeholders prior to these decisions being made.

#### **The second Motion was on Digital Exclusion**

Committing the council to commit more focus to identifying digital excluded groups who tend to be more vulnerable and improving their access to services.

This was unanimously agreed.

## **Education**

Finally the education team have a proposal to relocate Jessie Younghusband school to a new school at Minerva Heights. The decision has been made to proceed to statutory consultation. This decision is largely driven by cost and the urgent need for SEND places.

There is however a big disruption to children parents and the wider community in North and West of Chi with this proposed change.