

Rogate Parish Council Chair's letter

Not sure if it was due to the election but it has been an unusually quiet month though we have just received some good news – the Rogate Road, Hillbrow 30mph scheme has now gone through the formal public consultation and will proceed to installation – hopefully later this year.

We have met with highways to discuss the first draft of the community highways scheme to reduce the speed limit in Rogate village to 20mph. Presently it is only a rough plan and requires more work before it can be discussed. When the draft has had the edges filed off and is in a more palatable form we will be seeking input from everyone. Your views are vital.

Just a short section on how the Parish Council helps the community and how we can work together to make Rogate and Rake that little bit better. First what we don't do. No Parish Councillor has more power than a member of the public. As an example we are only able to report potholes via the public website. Likewise planning complaints and blocked footpaths, we use the same website as the public. We are happy to help out but we sometimes feel the same frustrations.

Our role is to try and improve the small things at the local level. We are able to make small grants. This could help towards making available small sums to help charities who support members of our community or monies towards resurfacing the tennis courts. The list is varied.

We have four open spaces, Fyning Recreation ground, Terwick Wood, Olivers Piece and Rake Recreation ground. We have long term plans to maintain these to ensure the people have access and can enjoy the space. We also have two playgrounds and an outdoor gym.

We act as a link between the community and the District and County Council. In the opening paragraph the community highway scheme was referenced - the request to reduce the speed limit through Rogate came from the community. We can act as a central point to channel that request and support the community views to the council who have the authority. Last month there was a request for information on blocked footpaths for 15-month maintenance. With the support of neighbouring Parish Councils we were able to ask Hyde to rethink the policy on selling off some of their social housing stock. We worked with the community to improve drainage and prevent flooding in North Street. Different items come up all the time. We don't have special powers but we are a central point to represent the community.

Finally, the plug. Our Parish Council is allowed to have 9 members. We currently have a space. More hands make light work. We have a parish of people with very valid views, where those views would make a difference we can try to facilitate a link to make that project happen. If you are interested please have a chat with any councillor or contact myself or the Clerk.

Max
Chair, Rogate Parish Council