

The new Fire and Rescue Centre now named Platinum House at Broadbridge Heath is nearly ready for business and I have a visit there on the 22nd June which I must say I am looking forward to as when this was muted I was Advisor to the Cabinet member so attended the site for very early discussions. It is now ready for action and will provide training facilities for other Fire Services and most importantly serve, when required, West Sussex.

West Sussex County Council has joined with the Environment agency and Sussex Police to try and target areas well known for fly tipping. This is no less than a scourge on the countryside and wherever else it gets illegally tipped.

It is now some 500 days since the start of the War in Ukraine and we are looking for more accommodation for some of the refugees from Ukraine. If you or anyone you know would be willing to put their names down to offer accommodation please go to the West Sussex County Council web site where information can be found on who to contact etc.

The amount of Carers who look after those who need help is staggering and quite frankly we could not manage without them. We have helped to provide respite days out for those who are registered as Carers but of course many do not register themselves.

If you know any in this position do please advise them to register with the Carers Support West Sussex which is a charity that works closely with West Sussex and is there to help.

Trading Standards as ever have been busy and still locating illegal goods of all sorts but especially of the Tobacco kind.

It seems early but we are just having our first workshops on the budget for 2024/5. It's never an easy process but you can be assured that we will be doing our very best to keep services going. I don't ever try to be Political in these notes but during a recent interview on most channels the Green MP for Brighton said on several occasions about the 'Fracking site' in West Sussex at Balcome. Please be assured that this is not and never has been a Fracking site. I just thought we should know the actual truth of this site.

Having mentioned the Broadbridge Heath Fire Station another site I have told about before is Woodlands Mead near East Grinstead and this newly developed School will take 500 special needs Pupils. It is now nearing completion.

For the Parish's within the National Park and perhaps for interest to the others a word on South Downs National Park.

As you know I am the County Council representative on this body and have been pretty busy lately. It's not meetings that you would know about but with 3 other members I sit on a committee that checks on how we have done and what we hope for over the coming year. I can tell you it's quite an active committee as we go through achievements and things we have not quite got through so it takes a few sessions to get a picture of where we hope to be in the future year etc. I think it is a good committee with discussions with the Chief Executive etc and deciding if we have failed in any respect or whether we are on the right tracks. Hopefully we are.

You will also have seen that the SDNP has taken the lead on shoring up of the façade of the Angel Hotel in Midhurst with contributions from CDC and WSCC. SDNP and CDC have put £200k in and WSCC £100 K and of course from all 3 organisations this is money not accounted for in our budgets. You may say why is County not putting the same as the other 2. Well there are good reasons like for instance once the roads are opened it will probably be nearing 1 million to put all the roads right in the area that you can imagine have taken a real battering since not going through Midhurst.

You will have seen the scaffolding going up on the Angel and although of course there are a lot that want this saved there is also many who say it should go and there is no doubt that the businesses are suffering in Midhurst itself even with the help from Chichester District Council. It is one of their busy times of the year and they just haven't got the footfall they need. Lets hope it's not long before life as we knew it can be restored. The stabilising should take 6 weeks and by the time you read this we should be getting near that time. Once it is stable then the County can open the road and a sigh of relief all round.

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