

Just a few notes.

As ever lots happening. It seems that when a break is looming like August everything gets crammed in before. However that's not always a bad thing and if anything arises during August that you need to know I will keep you informed.

We are still working hard at County Highways to get up to date with roads and their problems in West Sussex.

Now that Midhurst is open we have to put a lot of workforce into doing the roads up around Midhurst that of course get badly damaged when then main highway was closed to traffic and of course Pulborough needed extra attention on it's side roads as well.

There is however some encouraging news.

We had an online meeting today regarding Locality issues and population trends since the 2021 Census. This is for Chichester District. They always appear to come through slowly but there is a tremendous amount of data to get through.

One or two interesting items I picked up from the meeting I will try and give you a flavour .

These figures are for the Chichester District only and match quite well with Horsham and Midsussex but vary enormously in other Districts and Boroughs.

There was a lot of Officer information regarding Afghan and Ukraine refugees. Originally we had some 2250 Ukrainians with sponsors that number is now about halved for many various reasons. Some of the hosts only committed to the 6 month period, some refugees decided to go back to Ukraine or indeed other Countries, some in Europe and some further away and many returned to Ukraine for various reasons often connected to family members, I think the figure given was 25% gone back, 9% move to other Countries and some 3% what are called tourist visitors who in the 3 years they are allowed to stay choose to go back and forth.

We are still looking for host families if you know of any who would consider taking anyone in.

I do not have a lot of information about Afghan refugees but there have been some real success I do no. Many who were well educated lets say as Doctors and Nurses in their Country have been taken through University in this Country and although qualified in their Country need to be trained into the ways of Doctors etc in this Country and then they can work in Hospitals etc and make their own way. Another interesting statistic which won't come as a surprise is the average House price in Chichester District. The highest is Wisborough Green with an average price of over £700.000. Quite staggering when you look back at the sort of prices that property used to be.

The other item of interest to us all is the highways and the dreaded Pothole. We now have 3 of the great Patching machines going around the County which do a marvellous job and I for one am glad that we are getting rid of the, if I may use the terminology bucket and spade approach which we all know does a quick job but doesn't last so back they have to come again. To keep working on Potholes and as 3 Patchers can't be everywhere they will be using cutting out and filing method which we have used successfully for some years. Obviously not as good as the Patcher but it cuts out where the holes are and they are filled properly once cut out. All I can say more is that I report all I am made aware of and see for myself and would encourage anyone who wants to too use the online facility on the web to report a highways issue. Many do already.

I have recently visited the Platinum House Fire and Rescue facility at Broadbridge Heath which is fully open for use this mid July. Already we have Fire and Rescue services across the Country looking and in some cases booking training at this facility. It truly is state of the art.

As requested I contacted Rights of Way regarding the Bridge in Broomers Lane but I think Annette will probably be able to give you an update on that situation.

Please contact me on janet.dunton@westsussex.gov.uk or mobile 07979152898 if you would like further information.

I will be coming to the meeting but there is a chance that I may be a little late but will get their asap.

Janet Dunton

County Councillor Petworth division