

As ever there is a lot going on, I am sure you all realise that it is always the case but just one or two things I think I should mention.

First my usual Childrens Service. This continues to improve but as I always say, we are not there yet. A small OFSTED recently was encouraging but we are expecting a thorough OFSTED inspection sometime early in 2023. I do assure you though that we are getting there and it is such an improved Service than it was. As ever it's very difficult getting Social workers and we do train many ourselves now. We have also taken some from other Countries that of course we have to train as we want them to work. They are aware that although qualified they will have to take on training that West Sussex require. We are not alone. Rather like Planning Officers, Social Workers are hard to recruit. Likewise with our Fire and Rescue. A recent inspection from His Majesty's Inspectorate is happy that we have cleared backlogs especially the home safety visits etc. Always something that needs attention though and attending times have on occasion slipped but that is work in progress. Some will have noticed that the new Fire and Rescue buildings at Broadbridge Heath are coming on a pace and this will also provide training facilities for any Fire and Rescue Services across the Country that would like to make use of them.

Members have had the usual workshops to keep us up to speed with many items that are dealt with by County and this of course includes the budget which is not expecting to produce any substantial cuts in Services for 23/24. Things get more difficult as we go further forward but that's for another time.

You will have seen on the news the tragic deaths of 6 young people in West Sussex from suicide. A tragedy hard for all to bear. Mental health is not the remit of West Sussex County Council to deliver the Service. But we must all work to-gether with all the Services. The local Authority is leading the way in developing a ground breaking Mental Health triage service bringing to-gether all partners to the table which is forming the bases of National learning. Such a difficult time for all concerned. For those of my Parish's that are inside the South Downs National Park we are also having to find savings and every member of the Staff was written to some time back and informed of the situation and asked for their views on leaving or taking redundancy. When I say leaving of course that is an option but some moved to different positions taking on other responsibilities etc. This is working well at the time of writing. Twice a year all members and staff have a meeting together which helps us all understand one anothers position on the various responsibilities. We are still very keen to make sure that access to the Park is easier for all and as a National Park we have the biggest population on our boundaries and inside the Park than any other National Park in the country. It's a great place for all so we must try and make it accessible for all.

For those Parish's that I represent as a Chichester District Councillor and mainly outside of the Park although some like for instance Ebernoe are very much inside the Park a few CDC items.

I have tried to get some of the leaflets and posters out for an initiative called 'Supporting you'. The Supporting You team at CDC is now in place and aims to provide a holistic Service for those struggling with the cost of living rises. The team is 5 strong and works along with Social Prescribing and Wellbeing team.

Contact can be made by either supportingyou@chichester.gov.uk or calling 01243 534860.

I know each Parish has different issues they need to discuss with me and I hope to get to as many village events and Parish Council meetings as is possible and if I don't make all Parish Councils I am sure the Clerks will send queries to me as normal and that

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County Councillor Petworth division

Chichester District Councillor Loxwood ward