

Hope you all had a decent summer and are feeling fit for the coming months.

August as ever is pretty slow for us members but of course work continues on roads, Childrens Services etc.

One or two county issues I can tell you about . We have started working with East Sussex CC a programme called Life Transition Pilot. At the moment we are only running it in East Grinstead and the Wick/Littlehampton areas but as it says it is a pilot so that we can see how it will work out.

Basically it is to help those that would like advice on how to go forward into their older years in the way that they would like. If it goes well I will let you know in the future.

Councillors have several briefing sessions coming up. In September it's Active Travel and October a workshop on School place planning. After that we have our second workshop on the Council Plan and Budget for 24/25. It occurred to me that perhaps you don't know our main 4 priorities so here they are.

Keeping people safe from vulnerable situations

Sustainable and prosperous communities

Helping people to fulfil their full potential

Make the best use of our resources.'

These are the 4 main aims of the County Council Plan.

As you know exams results are in and taking in all A\* to E grades West Sussex came out with a 97.2% which is above the national average. This is all types of Schools included. More information can be found on the ofqual's website.

A brief mention again of Platinum House the new Fire & Rescue site at Broadbridge Heath. This really is state of the art and we are getting enquiries from many places for training and a lot from overseas. A feather in the County's Cap I really do believe.

A brief word on the South Downs National Park. Like Councils we rarely meet in August but one or two things do continue, Planning rarely stops and as a member of the Planning Committee I recently had the experience of attending the first day of the Boomtown Music Festival just outside of Winchester. There were 66thousand ticket holders there, mostly for 3 days and 6000 Staff including 300 who collect rubbish all day. The best I can say is it was an experience.

We have with money from the South Downs National Park Trust of which I am also a member managed to re-instate 10 Dewponds across the National Park with more to be done. Many Styles have been replaced with Gates to make easier access for those who use say wheelchairs or mobility Scooters to use the Park for recreation and getting out into the Countryside.

Not much more to report at the moment

Janet Duncton

County Councillor Petworth division