

WSSC July Report Janet Duncton

Sorry about these notes being a bit late but I really have been busy. I am sure you all realise that apart from your duties as a local Councillor most of us also have to run family lives and sadly my garden has suffered through lack of attention but I try and make sure that we are fed and a bit of cleaning in the house. No excuse, just facts

As an example this week started with a meeting of the member development Group on Monday, on Tuesday at 10am I was at South Downs National Park for a workshop at 10am followed by a full Authority meeting at 1pm, on Wednesday Mandatory training for Safeguarding both children and adults, and today Thursday SDNP Planning which started at 10am and I got home soon after 4pm. Ok it's not like a 9 to 5pm job but that's not what you take on. As Councillors at whatever level you fit your duties in with your private lives, yes we all know the rules but sometimes it's a little harder than others.

Whinge over and I really do try and get my notes done and by the way next week isn't a lot better ending with full County Council on the 18th July and on Council day it's be in County Hall by 9.30am and were lucky to finish at 4.15pm. It's what we sign up to but I am sure you can see it does get a bit busy.

In my defence I also spend considerable time at home on the computer replying to and sending emails not least of course regarding Highways issues or any other issues that residents have concerns about.

All that said we are doing well. Some years ago you will remember our childrens Services were in a sorry state. They are now in a very good position and I am hopeful that when we do get the next OFSTED inspection we will have a very different story to tell.

Our Social workers have really achieved and 2 are being put forward for National awards so I am hoping to be able to give a good story when the awards are made. They deserve it.

I don't think she's up for an award but the Cabinet member for Childrens Services Cllr Jacquie Russell has done an amazing job over the last few years working with all the Services and encouraging so that we are in a much, much better position. I can't imagine the hours Jacquie puts in but it must be more than my hours. We have a lot to thank her for not only her encouragement but her common sense attitude to getting the job done.

A group of young people between the age of 13 to 16 have been working with the Fire and Rescue Service as Cadets. Their one year has now come to an end and I believe that they have learnt a lot about the Service and I know our Fire and Rescue Officers have enjoyed teaching and working with them. Of course they will not all want to join the Service but hopefully some will and some may consider becoming Retained Fire fighters in their communities. It's certainly taught them a lot in one year.

I try and say something about Trading Standards because they are a great department in County as I've mentioned before they have prosecuted for illegal goods being sold, advising on online Scams or other Scams and many other issues and recently they won a Court case against an Airline called Norse Atlantic Airline for the illegal importation of a Dog, well more a Puppy actually at 11 weeks old and none of the paperwork required or injections required to bring Dogs into the Country. With costs we received £4442.

It is worth parents checking out the web site on Libraries as there are some good things going on in the Library's for children during the holidays.

Finally residents can have their say on the Fire and Rescue Service in a survey that runs until the 22nd September. There is a QR code but if you go the web it's yourvoice@westsussex.gov.uk/CRMP.

As ever if you need to contact me my details are below.

Hope to see you all soon.

Janet Duncton

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