

A very happy new year to all of you. I do really appreciate all the help and information that I receive from you all. In fact, I don't think I could do a proper job without your help. It's really funny at County because us rural County Councillors have Parish and Town Councils to attend although it isn't mandatory I don't think I can do a proper job without listening to my TC and PC's you all know what's going on and what needs attention in your own patch and obviously I can't be in all the Parish's all the time. Not complaining but my fellow Borough Councillors don't have Parish's except I think in Arun they have a couple but not 11 like myself.

We do our best between us though I think and it's good to catch up on what is happening in the Parish's

As you can imagine there isn't a great deal to update you on at the moment, not even devolution because we are still waiting for the Government to let us know if there will be elections in West Sussex on 7<sup>th</sup> May.

Hopefully next month we will know what position we are in so I won't bore you all with it at the moment.

Scrutiny committees are about to start again and so the year begins. Tomorrow I am attending a committee called HASC which I do not sit on. It's a committee that deals mainly with health issues and tomorrow there is an item on mental health issues among children and young people. I am attending to listen to the discussion because I am vice Chairman of the Children and Young People Scrutiny committee so hopefully it will inform me on this issue.

Always a difficult time for Highways, well I guess it's a year round problem keeping roads in good condition but the possibilities and actualities of bad weather do make the job even more challenging. We're not doing too badly at the moment and I'm probably speaking too soon as it's likely we will have much more bad weather yet.

Fire and Rescue as ever have been busy. You will know that a large part of their job in RTA's or road traffic accidents as we know it. We are hoping to be able to do more of the 'Safe Drive, Stay Alive' in 2026. It is so beneficial for the several thousand young people coming up to the driving age and hopefully they see some of the problems and what to do and what not to do once they get behind the wheel or indeed on 2 wheels.

Trading standards also have extra work at this time of the year, they are kept busy making sure that shops and businesses are doing what they should be doing and selling the proper goods. OFSTED came in December and as yet I can't give you the result of their visit. I am sure there will be somethings that we have to improve on but that said I think they will find huge strides forward have been taken and implemented since that dreadful inspection 5 or 6 years ago.

As ever my email is [janet.dunton@westsussex.gov.uk](mailto:janet.dunton@westsussex.gov.uk) or mobile 07979152898

Very best wishes

Janet Dunton

County Councillor Petworth division

West Sussex County Council