

It's been a busy time at both West Sussex County Council and the South Downs National Park but the strange thing is that there isn't a lot to report to all the residents.

First of all I would like to mention the 6th June and the 80th anniversary of D day.

We go over nearly every year because as some will know Petworth is twinned with Ranville the first village to be liberated on the 6th June 1944. It is we all know a long time ago

But should never be forgotten as so many gave their lives for our freedom and as difficult as life gets for us individually every now and again these armed forces of World War 2 sacrificed their lives in hundreds and thousands for our and others freedom and I take pride in acknowledging that annually.

This year the County Council provided me with a wreath and the Mayor of Ranville always allows me to join in placing my wreaths on the memorial in the town when he does and a few others, usually relatives of past Veterans. We will remember them.

As ever a lot of my time is taken reporting issues with the highways and many will say it doesn't show but I would have to disagree. Nothings perfect yet and probably never will be but I know from our records of jobs completed that we are making rapid progress into the backlog of, in particular, Potholes but believe me there are many other issues that have to be sorted and among these are drain clearance and often jetting, fallen trees, slipped Banks and other issues that can be a danger on the highway and it is our duty to try and keep the highways safe for the user.

We are in the middle of an election and although I am saying nothing about that I do want to assure residents that in these times all our other duties are going on as normal, nothing stops.

Recently I have said about the good reports we are getting now for our childrens Services. It has taken about 5 years but we are honestly getting there.

A childrens home in Crawley has recently been inspected by OFSTED and has been awarded outstanding by them. This is a very happy outcome and we do aim to give all the children in our care the sort of life that any child could expect in a family. Not an easy task but we really are making a difference now even with the ever rising numbers.

Our Trading Standards have again been busy and successful in prosecuting retailers who are still selling illegal products. We don't mention them much but they are constantly working trying to keep us all safe not just in retail but trying to educate people in recognising and not falling for Scams. Not only that but we still get rouge building workers who charge way over the top for work and indeed very rarely do the job the householder thought they were getting. Recently one that has been doing just that has recently received a prison sentence.

A quick word on the South Downs National Park Authority. Now I really have been very busy here visiting whole Estate Plan sites which take the whole day, Planning committee and probably most of all I sit with 4 other members and among other items we are now in the process of selecting for the position of Chief Executive. We hope to have a new CEO in August and as you may imagine a large number of applicants are expected. Watch this space.

Be assured that I continue to work for my Parish's and although it isn't easy I still do report all road issues that either I come across or residents inform me of.

Take care and if needed please contact me through janet.dunton@westsussex.gov.uk or mobile 07979152898.

Janet Dunton

County Councillor Petworth division

WSSC representative on South Downs National Park