

August is supposed to be down time for Councils although everything carries on as normal but no meetings. It didn't seem to work like that this year for some of us but I admit that mostly because of my role on the South Downs National Park so here's a few items on that.

As you know we were looking for a new Chief Executive and myself and 4 other members were on the committee to get the job done. We were joined by the Chief Executive of the Lakes National Park and a representative from Natural England to make sure we did the job properly.

It may surprise you that it took so much of our time but firstly a company had to whittle the applicants down to about 20 for us to go through their CVs etc and we got down to 6. These 6 were interviewed by us over 2 very long days (actually one dropped out so it was 5 in the end) and we had 2 long and interesting days.

The difficulty was we couldn't tell a soul of our decision until all confirmations received and the Staff informed. I tried to see if it was settled today but no luck so as soon as I can I will inform the Clerks. All done now hopefully.

Back to County.

Residents looking to get their young people into Secondary Schools can apply on line as of now.

This week we have had a Youth Council and as ever it was interesting to see how the younger generation think and feel about things. They have actually made their own manifesto and have lead members for each issue. Not sure I remember them all but basically they were the Environment, Safety for all which includes of course the dreadful knife crimes we read about and the drug scene. It includes everything at that means on line safety as well. They try to have a dialogue with the Police about issues and have been quite successful in that. Their attitude was good and I felt great hope for the future with young people like these taking on from us older generations.

September starts with again busy times. This current week I have had Youth Cabinet Monday, WS Planning committee, Tuesday, a tour of Horticulture sites all day on Wednesday and then site is its with SDNP for a large portion of the day and mainly down towards Winchester.

Won't bore you with personal issues but my weekends have been no better but mainly good village fetes and other local and indeed family issues.

Next week it's the Planning committee at SDNP and that's usually a most of the day meeting and then of course my Parish Councils all get back to meetings in September. I did of course have 2 who decided to meet in August but this is not the norm.

Please let me know if there are some issues you want me to investigate and as ever you can contact me via janet.dunton@westsussex.gov.uk or my mobile 07979152898.

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County Councillor Petworth division.