

# Chairman's Report 2021 -- Ferring Parish Council

## *Development / Environmental pressures*

With the easing of lockdown restrictions and the pressure on Arun (and Worthing) to meet housing delivery numbers, there has been a surge in planning applications within Ferring and adjacent to its borders. These range from relatively minor householder alterations to significantly larger redevelopments and back garden in-fills. Opportunistic industrial and commercial development applications on land north of the Littlehampton Road continue unabated. Developers are also challenging the open space designations of our green gaps between Ferring and the settlements both to the east and west of the village. Most notable was the submission by Persimmon Homes for a new housing estate north of the railway line between Ferring and Goring. That proposal was contained within the Worthing authority area but reached our eastern boundary and would have had significant impact on the local environment, communities and highways. Ferring Parish Council and Ferring Conservation Group joined with Goring and Worthing groups and environmental experts to object to the plans and protect those environmentally and socially important open spaces. Worthing Borough Council rejected the application after an overwhelming number of objections. High numbers of individual resident submissions have been shown to be of significant influence.

## *Pedestrian / Highway safety infrastructure*

In the summer of 2018, the Parish Council notified residents that it was exploring the possibility of erecting a traffic island as a pedestrian refuge in Rife Way at its junction with Ferring Street. Following approaches to West Sussex County Council, the Highways Department undertook the necessary evaluations and surveys and agreed to develop a scheme. The works to deliver the scheme were due to be carried out in late 2020. Last minute technical issues combined with re-scheduling of works by contractors, resulting from the Covid-19 disruptions, meant that implementation was postponed. Indications from WSCC are that it should be completed this summer but no firm dates have yet been set. Following on from the installation of the traffic calming 'build-out' in Sea Lane, these reflect considerable investments in the infrastructure of the village as a direct response to traffic and pedestrian safety issues raised by the parish council and residents.

## *Community volunteers*

Thank you to all the councillors who have led or participated in projects and activities throughout a challenging year for everyone. The ongoing care and enhancement of our village benefits directly from their efforts.

The parish council would also like to applaud and give thanks to the various individuals and organisations within the village on whose collaboration and support we rely both as a parish council and as a community. Never was this more admirably demonstrated than by the many selfless individuals who together developed a remarkable network of support for any residents in need throughout the pandemic in 2020.

Councillor Stephen Abbott