

What was it about walls this month! First of all the lovely flint faced wall surrounding No. 1 Woodland Drive at the south end of The Street was part demolished by a van in the early hours of the morning. It appears the driver turned into Boxgrove off the roundabout and failed to straighten up. Then a couple of weeks later a Volvo drove straight into the historic flint wall in front of Jasmine Cottage, one of the pair opposite the Old Forge flower Shop. Theory here is the driver probably fell asleep, but no doubt we'll never really know.

One thing I have noted though is the apparent increase in the volume of traffic needed for the build up for the Festival of Speed. Though not necessarily through Boxgrove but along the other minor approaches to Goodwood Park, even including Shuttle Buses for incoming staff furnished by Stagecoach. I understand there are to be no aerial displays this year, a disappointment for some but a delight for many pet owners. No doubt there will be fireworks of some form or another.

It is exceedingly good news regarding the refurbishment of the Windmill sweeps and other ancillary works deemed necessary. If the schedule can be adhered to I may live long enough to see the Old Lady in her full glory once more. Speaking to Jeremy Rigby, a retired WSCC Officer who was, when in post, responsible for these works, he was most interested in the budget released for this work as well as the time scale. If the modern aluminium 'Haki' scaffolding with ladders is to be installed, will English Heritage allow this? Because up till now any new flooring and staircase constructed in timber, as per original, was costed and rendered the project well beyond the original Budget of £300K. Listed building planning consent, as far as I know, has not yet been considered. We as the Parish Council should be among the first to view the application.

Turning to planning, at the most recent CDC Planning Committee Meeting, one single application for urgent restoration work to the sea defences at west beach Selsey was on the Agenda, after which we held a Workshop to learn of yet further proposals by this inept Government to speed up and promote further development. The review last year of our CDC Planning process by the National Planning Service needless to say a Quango, achieved nothing except to reduce the number of Committee members and reduce the policy whereby applications objected to by PC's automatically came before Committee. Under yet another NPPF this policy will be scrapped along with the Red Card Procedure. This is an absolute erosion of

democracy in the Local Planning process! But all we appear able to do is write and object, but that achieved nothing during the NPS review last year. However, our Planning Officers are preparing a bulletin which will be circulated to ALL PC's and more in depth training sessions are planned for PC sub committee Members. Objections have got to be more robust to add any valuable weight to Parish objections. Our Planning Officers will also welcome greater collusion with PC Members, either by mail or Teams or Zoom on line meetings. And all of this before we are made aware of the future Local Government Reorganisation, of which we are no wiser than 2 months ago. They might make a decision in July or August. Planning throughout West Sussex will be affected.

Finally, I must mention the proposal before us for the future of the Sports Pavilion and the playing field facilities. The Business Plan tendered by NJS, though lacking some details, I find to be a good Plan and look forward to the debate of the proposal on the 6th. The input from NJS and the Cricket Club is paramount to its success.

Henry Potter, Chairman of the Parish Council.

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