Dear Resident

The Parish Council have kept the precept at the same level for this year, as in 2019-20, following prudent financial management, which has allowed for a further investment in Duver Toilets before Easter – the Toilets are now formally owned by the Parish Council.

Improvements will include Baby Changing facilities, a deep clean and work on the drains, as well as replacement of tiles and other Fixtures & Fittings – this reflects an ongoing commitment to maintain the standard of the amenity as best as possible within the resources available.

Extensive work has been undertaken to highlight concerns about the protection of the Greens, with the reporting of incidents high on the actions list of the Parish – the increase in size of motor vehicles, home delivery vehicles, and inconsiderate driving and parking have all exacerbated the problem – Councillors are working with partner agencies on a series of options which can be costed and considered in the future.

There is also consideration of a Commons Council, but this would take some time to develop, and would require considerable support – and will be discussed at future meetings.

Planning remains a concern, both in terms of individual applications on which members comment, reflecting local views and concerns as appropriate; and the wider issue of the draft Island Plan and the number and type of housing proposed. The Parish have actively campaigned for realistic targets, and recognition of providing accommodation for local people, alongside the impact on the infrastructure and the economy.

Investment in the Duver (including recycling bins, review of Dogs on Leads, maintenance of Church Green, and Public Realm improvements, as well as Public Toilets), with sponsorship and other support, has enabled the Parish to take forward an application for the Seaside Award – considerable work has been undertaken on this project and progress will be reported in future magazines and in Parish Meetings.

The Council has also worked with the local school to enable a student to present a special VE Day @ 75 Mug to Prince Edward during his recent visit to the Island – students are also working on other projects to commemorate and celebrate the Anniversary, with VE Day falling on Friday May 8th 2020 – this year a Bank Holiday.

Work continues on Station Road issues, with the recent installation of a drain helping alleviate a long term issue with surface water: work with the IW Council and Island Roads is hoped to further address the issues, as well as clear the pavement and bus shelter area. Councillors will continue to monitor the situation, and take appropriate action, if required.

The Council continues to monitor the changes in local healthcare provision following the closure of the Brading practice, and have highlighted local concerns – members recognise the need to maintain the provision in the village and how vital the service is to the local community.

Councillors have also worked with the National Trust to arrange a presentation meeting, in the Community Centre, with a provisional date of Tuesday April 7th in the evening – details are being finalised and will be on the public notice board and website once agreed.

Members again wish to thank residents for getting in touch, raising issues, and the support for projects being developed and delivered.

Thank you again and best wishes for Easter

St Helens Parish Council