Good afternoon everyone

Sorry, just pulling together my report which is below:

August has been a quiet month at Arun DC which is normal but quite unlike the 2 preceding Augusts.

The Residential & Wellbeing Committee were called in for an emergency meeting to give authorisation to Officers to enable the replacement of the boiler system at Bersted Green Court to go ahead.  I have been in two minds about this; I’ve been called in several times to liaise with the contractor to get the system back up and running over weekends, but also there are wider issues here (future of the building itself and the green agenda).  We were told that the new boiler will be more efficient and give off less emissions which is certainly a help.  Just for interest, BGC is right on the boundary - I’ve been involved with one resident who contacted through BPC but it is in the next Ward for District.  I don’t think this helps its case at all.  So the boiler system is to be replaced before the onset of this winter which will give the residents peace of mind and ongoing warmth.

We were due to have a Bersted Advisory Group meeting this afternoon.  Our Officers gave me the option to continue with the meeting but without any input from Lichfields (re the main Chalcraft Lane site) and carry this forward to November meeting, or try to defer to include Lichfields update on their formal planning application.  I agreed to the former with the proviso that it would be during September and this has been arranged.

After longtime involvement with the need for a dog bin in Shripney village and the issues around the Church Commissioners land at Babsham, both moved forward whilst I was away for 6 days.  I haven’t been away since 2018 - perhaps I should do it more often?  Shripney village now has a dog bin in a location agreed by residents and where it was felt there was most need.  I can see it from my office gates which is very gratifying.  After Cllr Lury and I made a visit during August to Babsham, and I sent in another email to ADC, I was away for the formal site meeting but understand that the rubbish is being removed from one part of the site and the Ad Blue tank from the other, thus reducing the number of HGVs needing to gain access across the cycleway and causing large amounts of dust.  Both of which were causing distress to local residents.

It was a great pleasure to be part of the play scheme for the final two Tuesdays as Cllr Kapp and I oversaw the bouncy castle(s).  Really good to talk to local people (children as well as adults) and to see their appreciation of the scheme.  One thing I spotted immediately was that small children were rather intimidated by the older/bigger ones and I suggested that we have pre-schooler bounce sessions.  This meant that the school children had to come off for about 10 mins which did cause groans.  However, they soon realised that they could have more freedom once the small ones were no longer on.  If I’m asked to do it again, would definitely like to do similar (unless a small toddler castle could be provided alongside the larger one).  Amazingly, best bouncy castle feature was the climbing wall.  Why aren’t there more?  All age groups loved it and it is a fantastic way to climb safely.

I am hoping to attend tonight but I have another meeting beforehand so I will almost certainly be late if I am able to come along at all.  I’ll tender apologies now just in case.

Best wishes

GILL