

Playden DC Report November 2018

1. Police and Crime

1.1 Operation Rogue Trader ran from 8th until 12th October. This was a national week of action aiming to stop unscrupulous business practices and raise awareness on the dangers linked to hiring cold-callers. Operation Rogue Trader began specifically to target doorstep crimes, especially distraction burglaries and rogue trader offences. As rogue trading practices diversified, Operation Rogue Trader grew to allow participating authorities to proactively target criminal behaviour, and raise awareness amongst the most vulnerable groups.

Operation Rogue Trader is a national multi-agency campaign coordinated by the [Chartered Trading Standards Institute \(CTSI\)](#) with Liberal, the Police National Intelligence Unit. Last year's campaign involved over 1,400 personnel, 1806 were stopped and searched, 87 arrests with 871 offences and over £40,000 in property seized.

If you suspect someone of being a rogue trader, or find yourself accosted by uninvited doorstep sellers, contact the [Citizens Advice](#) Consumer Helpline on [03454 040506](tel:03454040506) or contact police on 999 or 101.

1.2 Operation Magpie, the autumn burglary prevention and awareness campaign, is being run by Sussex Police from 29th October until 4th November.

Sussex Police reports that there were 644 burglaries across the force in September 2017 falling to 518 in September 2018. The autumn campaign aims to maintain this decrease, as well as raising awareness about how you can protect your own home.

During this week there will be prevention advice to specific communities as well as social media posts, in an effort to prevent burglaries from happening in the first place "*Leave a light on!*"

1.3 You can be kept up to date by joining Sussex Police's Community Message service, [In the Know](#) which will keep you up to date on the latest news in your police district. Communities can work together to prevent crime. By joining an existing [Neighbourhood Watch scheme](#) or becoming a NHW coordinator your community can be stronger together.

2. The Development and Site Allocations Local Plan (DaSA) and supporting documents have been approved and finalised. The Plan will be published for a six week period (from 26th October to 7th December) for representations and subsequent submission to the Secretary of State.

The aim of the DaSA is to identify sufficient sites to meet the Core Strategy housing targets and to update development boundaries. The responsibility of identifying sites is now shared between the DaSA and Neighbourhood Plans (NPs) that have been made or are currently being prepared across the District. Two NPs have been completed (Sedlescombe and Roberts bridge and Salehurst) and Rye, Crowhurst and Ticehurst are expected to be submitted later this year. It was noted that there is insufficient time to prepare new NPs against current housing targets.

The DaSA had initially been prepared as an 'Options and Preferred Options' version, which was subject to a ten week public consultation period. The form of policies in the final Plan are not significantly different from the 'Preferred Option' previously indicated and members also noted that a number of draft site allocations had not been carried forward (as a result of planning permissions being granted during the intervening period).

The Plan will shape how the District will develop over the next ten years and covers policies on development sites, affordable housing, water efficiency and landscape conservation. If you would like to make representations you can view the Plan and supporting documents online at www.rother.gov.uk/dasa or in person at Bexhill Town Hall, the community help point in Rye or at Battle Library. Once formally adopted, RDC will be legally obliged to take into account the Plan when deciding whether to approve future planning applications.

3. A reminder of Rye Bonfire and road closures on 10th November; the A259 will be closed from 7.30 - 10.00pm from the Kettle of Fish roundabout to the Camber side of Monk Bretton Bridge.

4. I attended a meeting on Monday (29th October) to discuss the draft Public Realm Strategy which is near finalisation and is likely to come before Cabinet early next year. It is an ambitious document and aims for RDC to work in partnership with other agencies to ensure that Rother District has the best public realm and innovative initiatives for improvement thereof. This is a piece of work which I am particularly proud of, having been integrally involved with it.

The public realm is spaces in public ownership that are open and accessible to all, including streets, pavements, green spaces and so on and including fixtures and fittings, surfacing, trees etc. Public realm also covers vehicle movements, on-street parking provision, the management of walking and cycling routes. Management of the public realm is therefore an important civic responsibility which is shared between other agencies. Good management of the public realm is important because it contributes significantly to the well-being, character, uniqueness, and prosperity of our District. Tourism, retail, commerce, community life and day to day living all depend on a quality public realm.

The draft Strategy addresses the key issues and opportunities discovered by the Public Realm Working Group (which I chaired before becoming portfolio-holder for the Public Realm), including the challenge of traffic management - reducing speeding and making our roads safer; opportunities for economic growth through major public realm works; strategic planning of public realm improvements; conservation of heritage assets and historic streetscapes; and maintaining and enhancing the character of our towns and villages.

5. There is nothing to report as regards Cabinet as the next Cabinet meeting is not until 5th November - I will report in next month's DC Report.

SAH