

# CHALVINGTON WITH RIPE PARISH

## ANNUAL PARISH MEETING 9<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2022

### RIPE AND CHALVINGTON LITTER WATCH GROUP

The group has been in operation around the Parish for 18 years and there are now 29 families involved, all volunteers who care about our community. Sadly there has been no significant decrease in the litter problem, even with fewer cars on our roads due to Covid. Approximately 150 bags of litter are picked up from our roads and verges each year, so the diligence and commitment of the group is still of great importance.

- The main culprits are plastic shopping bags (some 'helpfully' hung on tree branches), builders' rubble, drink cans, cigarette packets, empty wine bottles, fast food wrappings, energy drinks and energy jelly.
- Definitely on the increase are used alcohol containers, sometimes one bottle per week of Sauvignon Blanc logged from the same spot - perhaps evidence of regular romantic trysts half-way down Darp Lane?? The largest article deposited this year was an old fridge, together with a pile of used car tyres.
- Our serial San Miguel drinker has switched streets, but his faithful Belgian girlfriend Stella Artois is never far behind.
- We have sought to keep up pressure on Maria Caulfield, Wealden, ESCC and Highways about the disgraceful state of the A27 and it is good to see that some collections along the main road have been made, though the problem is far from solved.
- Wealden should be congratulated on their efficient fly-tipping service. Large items of rubbish rarely take more than two days to remove.
- Wealden have also helpfully supported us by providing equipment in the shape of picker sticks, bags, gloves, tabards and hoops.
- Sadly, enforcement of the laws regarding littering is virtually non-existent. It would help, perhaps, to have cameras or at least a more visible anti-littering campaign organised by those who have power over the state of our environment.

Brian Hill, Litter Watch Coordinator.