

## REPORT FOR ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

Another year has passed us by, a year dominated mainly by planning matters as well as the recurring issues around roads and footpaths.

There have of course been other areas and matters that have arisen, some of which have been directly concerning the Parish Council and some of concern only to those directly involved.

All in all though, I believe that the Parish Council and I have worked well together to deal with matters.

### Planning

I had hoped by now to have been able to report that the Planning Inspector had signed off Shropshire's SamDev plan and hence the total spatial planning document for the period to 2026. Although we are tantalisingly close we are not yet in that happy position. There are some final amendments to be agreed and some procedures to be gone through. You never know though we might be there by the time we meet!

We can demonstrate that Shropshire has in excess of five years' supply of housing land ready to go. This means that we are now in a strong position to both give considerable weight to SamDev in decisions as well as to be strong when considering issues of "sustainability".

A number of refusals over the past months have been through the appeals process now and have been won by us without costs awards either!

### Highways

As ever there are unrepaired pot-holes in our roads. This could be taken as a proverbial comment because there always will be as sure as night follows day!

All that I can say is that when they are reported by the Parish Council, a member of the public or picked up through the process of routine inspection they are assessed and dealt with according to their severity and nature. For some people this is never quick enough whereas from other points of view the Highways Engineers give undue attention to minor problems at the expense of other matters.

No person and no system is perfect but, on balance, I believe that the roads are maintained reasonably well. There is no doubt though that, where a decision is made to carry out a major repair of a stretch of road using reconstruction techniques, the end result is excellent with the prospect of trouble free life for a number of years. More schemes such as these are being discussed.

### Other Matters

Shropshire Council's share of Council Tax has remained frozen for another year. We are not planning an increase for the coming few years as things currently stand.

Education offer in our areas remains high at both Primary and Secondary levels. The coming to Shrewsbury of the new university offer is exciting and will help to provide stimulus to our economy in the long term, more immediately it will see changes to the economy and centre of Shrewsbury which will undoubtedly spin out into the surrounding areas.

Public transport (which for us means busses) operates much as it has done over recent years with the only major change being to the A49 route (435 operated by Minsterley Motors) which is now run without Council subsidy.

I will expand upon this report at the meeting and answer any questions.

Tim Barker