

Chairman's Report 2009/2010

Planning: There have been twelve Planning Applications. Ten have been resolved, two remain outstanding; an agricultural building and an application for development of Old Highways Yard on the south side of the A422. There has been one other application relating to a new dwelling which was granted, all others were of a more minor nature.

The West Midlands Spatial Strategy/SWVCS progress with much input from the Parish Council and our representatives at District and County.

Village Design Statement: Progress has been made, but is still on going. A gratifying number of parishioners attended and were involved in the all day workshop giving a broad spectrum of views. The Village Design Statement, and the Parish Plan are envisaged as being ongoing concepts, which, with experience, will from time to time require updating.

Parish Website: This continues and, hopefully, with time will develop and prove useful to parishioners and others interested in our area.

Traffic Management: A traffic activated speed reminding sign will, in conjunction with Upton Snodsbury Parish Council be purchased, with the aid of an agreed, but not yet received grant from Market Towns Finance.

Highways and Footpaths: Many new stiles have been put in place in the last few years and the overall situations is much improved compared to that of the recent past. Peter Dodgson has continued to be an enthusiastic and valued Footpath Officer and Tree Warden. Alan Farnsworth continues his work as Lengthsman clearing gullies and signs, re-cutting grips and pulling ragwort. This last winter has caused some problems on our roads, but thankfully less than in many areas as the general condition of the highways is good.

Precept: Reduced by 8%.

Councillors: Gavin Webb and Anthony Weston have joined the Parish Council; welcome to them. Leena Sheppard has very recently resigned as Mike and Leena are retiring and intend to leave the area.

General Issues and Thanks: PC Sean Woods is now our designated Police Officer and is keen to help parishioners. We have managed to facilitate an agreement enabling parents and pupils to use the Flyford Arms car park whilst waiting for school transport.

I joined the Parish Council nineteen years ago and have seen many changes in this time. There was initially more than a passing resemblance to the village of Dibley's Parish Council. Over the years there has been a transformation in the professionalism of the council,

its members and Clerks and although it is usually said to be invidious to single out individuals, this is, I feel merited.

David Waide always elevates our discussions with clear, concise and well thought out contributions has served for four years as Chairman and has been instrumental in the production of the Parish Plan and the work on the Village Design Statement.

Linda Houghton was for years a member of the Council serving not only as Chairman but also for a period as Clerk and continues to contribute with commitment, especially liaising on the Parish Plan and Village Design Statement.

Mark Broughton-Taylor has served this Parish Council and its Chairmen for years in a selfless, authoritative [but not authoritarian] and very helpful way. We are indeed fortunate to have him as Clerk/Treasurer, especially with every year bringing an increasing workload.

Meetings are also rather more good natured than nineteen years ago – sadly the only constant is lack of public attendance and contributions – I would like to think this could indicate satisfaction with our work – but I have my doubts.

My thanks go to David Smallcombe as Vice Chairman who has quickly become involved and ably chaired meetings in my absence and to all my fellow councillors for tolerating my chairmanship. I would also like to thank Rob Adams and Linda Robinson for making time in their busy schedules to regularly attend our meetings and to keep us informed of all things relevant at District and County level and to take our thoughts and comments upward, to those councils. We much appreciate this and Mark Broughton-Taylor for his unstinting contributions. I wish my successor and fellow councillors all the best for their future.