

## **Tiverton and Tilstone Fearnall Parish Council - Chairman's Annual Report 2013**

The Neighbourhood Plan. All parishioners will shortly be receiving a questionnaire as part of our preparatory work on the Neighbourhood Plan. We genuinely wish to hear your views on matters of importance for the local community, including prospective residential and commercial developments but also local transport, road safety and high-speed broadband. I therefore would ask you to take the time and trouble to complete the questionnaire and return it to us. The planning authorities will not accept a Neighbourhood Plan that is not based on local opinions and supported by a majority of local residents.

You will note that the Neighbourhood has been defined to include Beeston Parish, with whom we will now be working to produce a joint plan. As required by the regulations, we publicly advertised our intention of working with Beeston, received no substantial objections and, in turn, received formal approval from Cheshire West and Chester. Please note that, as it says in the pre-amble to the questionnaire, working together on the Neighbourhood Plan does not imply the merging of the parishes for normal business. We decided to co-operate in the first place because of shared rural interests and also the emerging development issues around Beeston Brook; the Beeston Castle public house, Beeston fuel tanks, Beeston Market and Beeston Reclamation sites. Although these are wholly in Beeston Parish they are in close proximity to the parish boundary and many households in Tiverton Parish.

Decisions about any Beeston Brook developments will almost certainly be made before we can complete the longwinded process of developing our plan and getting it formally approved. However, the sooner we are able to articulate an agreed local view on what type and scale of development is acceptable the more we can try to influence planning and other decisions. We have already conveyed our views to CWaC that we are not necessarily against the provision of much-needed housing so long as it is of the right type to meet local needs, that the local, rural character of the area is not threatened and that developers are required, as a condition of planning consent, to make a contribution to the enhancement of local amenities, such as shops, transport, parking, schools, leisure facilities, as appropriate.

Roads. The other big problem that we have been actively pursuing this last year, with only limited success I admit, has been the dreadful state of the roads around the parish. I think the long-running saga of leaking water and septic tank effluent just west of Townfield Drive seems finally to have been resolved. We have requested permanent re-surfacing to solve the recurring problem of dangerous potholes and uneven surfaces that affect most of Huxley lane, Pudding Lane and Crib Lane. All we have seen, in response, is small-scale or larger-scale patching, yet again, which will almost certainly not last beyond a couple of winters.

We now have the illuminated speed monitoring sign on the A49, thanks partly to the initiative and generosity of a local resident, which is apparently having the desired effect of reducing excessive speeding. We have also received agreement that speed through the village on Huxley Lane will be monitored, having complained once again about the serious danger, noise and vibration for local residents and their properties, caused especially by excessive speeding of heavy vehicles. Plans have also been agreed for restricted parking and one-way travel in the lay-bys at the junction of Huxley Lane and the A49. The objective is to prevent continuing damage to the elephant fencing and to parked cars, while acknowledging the crucial importance of this parking area for the village hall in particular.

Boundary Changes. Notices have just been posted formally announcing that your parishes have lost a few households to either Tattenhall (Redhill, Birch Heath and Tiresford) or Rushton (stages Platt). This is the result of a "tidying up" move driven by CWaC. Otherwise the current parish governance arrangements remain unchanged.

The Village Hall. The 19<sup>th</sup> of October will see the official re-opening of the Village Hall after its make-over. Everyone is welcome so look out for details of the event. The Parish Council has been pleased to give their support and make a modest contribution to the funding but congratulations are due to the Committee who have managed the design, funding and execution of this project.

Gordon Ibbotson.