

Tiverton and TilstoneFearnall Parish Council.

Chairman's Report 2014-2015

Your Parish Council continues to do what it can to reflect your views and to act in your best interests. I am honoured to serve as its Chairman and I wish to thank all parishioners who have shared their views and concerns with us over the past year.

This year has seen no major planning issues for this parish, apart from some enforcement issues brought to our attention, but we have expressed our views regarding developments regarding the Beeston Market site that many of you overlook. Work on our Neighbourhood Plan, in co-operation with Beeston, has progressed well under the excellent stewardship of Councillor Cheshire and our Parish Clerk, Phil Sanders. My thanks go to them and also to all of you who responded to our second questionnaire of the year concerning Neighbourhood Plan policies.

I am pleased that we finally saw long-needed improvements to the road surface and drainage in the vicinity of Townfield Lane. We continue to lobby CWA about improvements to Huxley Lane further west and also about keeping footpaths and verges throughout the parish in reasonably tidy condition and free of litter. We are currently liaising with United Utilities about the frequency of interruptions to the water supply on Huxley Lane.

I wish to place on record my thanks to two retiring councillors, Janice Farrall and Ann Wright, who have given many years of loyal service to your Parish Council.

I am pleased to note that, over the last seven years or so, we have seen new members joining the Council as vacancies arose. In that respect I am pleased to welcome our new member, Councillor Kevin Thompson. I think that a steady turn-over of Council membership is healthy and in line with the principles of good governance. The average age has come down over the years, which does make it a little more representative in that regard, but I am well aware that currently we have no female members. There are still vacancies on the Council so please put your name forward if you wish to make a contribution to your parish.

Gordon Ibbotson,

Chairman

12th May 2015.