

Tiverton and Tilstone Fearnall Parish Council : Chairman's Annual Report 2014

During 2013-14 the issues dealt with by your Parish Council followed a familiar pattern, which is no great surprise, dominated by planning applications, road conditions, speeding, village hall parking and repair of the elephant fencing. But we also saw good progress on the development of the Neighbourhood Plan, in conjunction with Beeston Parish.

We have continued, with limited success, to press for improvements to the condition of road surfaces throughout the parish. Similarly, we continue to lobby Cheshire West and Chester for measures to improve road safety, such as reduced speed limits, speed warning signs and HGV weight limits, again with varying degrees of success.

We are currently exploring, with Cheshire Highways, changes to the road marking and layout of the Huxley Lane / A49 junction, with a view to providing more parking and reduced damage to fencing and verges, while preserving the vehicle turning capability that CWaC insists upon. As with road repairs, constrained budgets at county level are a major consideration unfortunately.

There has been a steady flow of fairly routine planning applications, such as modest extensions and improvements, concerning which very few objections are raised either by members of the public or by the Parish Council. However, if we think that a proposed development is in any way inappropriate in the context of the village environment we will convey our objections to the planners.

The work on the Neighbourhood Plan, in conjunction with Beeston Parish, is progressing well, with five working groups, each consisting of councillors and volunteer parishioners, covering; Development, Roads & Traffic, Safety & Security, Community, and Environment. Over the next few months our Neighbourhood Plan will be harmonised with CWaC's emergent Local Plan and this will establish the framework for future development of the area covered by the three parishes. I would personally hope that some of these volunteers might consider making a further contribution to the parish in the future by serving on the Parish Council.

We have also liaised with Beeston in our various submissions regarding the planned developments of the whole Beeston Market site. Unfortunately we seem to have little influence compared with the political priorities for increased housing at both national and county levels. However, in the context of these proposed developments, we continue to seek improved local amenities while preserving our valued rural environment.

We have continued our modest financial support for Tiverton Village Hall, St Jude's Parish Church and Tarporley War Memorial Hospital.

We have received further submissions from members of the public both for and against the placing of floral tributes on the War Memorial Green on anniversaries, Mothers' Day and such. On balance the Council maintains its decision that the use of the Green for such private tributes is understandable but inappropriate, since it is a public space and is not consecrated. This policy does not apply, of course, to War Memorial Remembrance tributes.

Finally I would like to thank my fellow councillors and our parish clerk for their services this year.

Gordon Ibbotson

May 2014