

Chairman's Report

First of all I hope everyone enjoyed the Christmas break and are fighting fit for the challenges we, no doubt, will face in the coming year particularly on the planning front. I feel the fact that Shropshire Council's draft local plan has still not been accepted by the government inspectors, is highly concerning and leaves our community wide open to uncontrolled development. A neighbourhood plan could go some way to giving us some say in where new housing should be built but it is going to take time to get this in place.

On a brighter note, a meeting took place on the 13th Jan with two representatives of National Highways and a member of West Mercia Police. Representing the Parish Council were Myself, Cllr Shaw, Cllr Underwood and our Parish Clerk. You should all have seen the notes from this meeting and we can enlarge on these at Full Council on Monday. Suffice to say here that the meeting seemed to be a success with NH pledging to do as much as they can to alleviate issues with the A49. It is a pity that it has taken a serious accident to get them onside. The Police are also very much committed to monitoring both traffic on the A49 and within the village and this has already begun. It was unfortunate that Shropshire Highways declined the invitation to discuss the recommendations the RSWG had made for the village itself. I can report that, after a bit of gentle lobbying, SH have now agreed to a meeting at a mutually convenient date.

Rob Ruscoe.