

Hadnall Parish Council's Chairman's Report for 2015-16

At the beginning of last year's Report, I stated that the Parish Council had been under a lot of pressure trying to fend off unwanted developments. Now, that the situation is different and Shropshire Council is able to exert control over planning, so the Planning Sub-Committee has a slightly easier time. With most applications for new houses being turned down, it has largely been dealing with the technical details of the existing plans. I would like to thank all those involved in this very important work, for all the time and effort put in.

It was agreed that a Community Led Plan (CLP) would be needed to help Hadnall to determine its development in the next period of time, however progress has been slow and is indeed being given a new impetus at the present moment. Time will tell if this attempt achieves a complete plan. In order to succeed, total community involvement is needed - this has been the difficult part and remains the greatest challenge! Perhaps the Chairman's report next year will contain details of real progress.

Whilst the council has been less busy, there are always things to be done. The Parish Clerk has been busy helping the Council to prepare its "administration" to meet the needs of the "Transparency Code". The aim, is to get all of the business of the PC on-line so that those who have access to the Internet may view all the papers of the Parish Council. Over 90% of this is now available through the village website. In parallel with this, the council has been working towards a Foundation Award to recognise this on-line content. We are therefore quite near completion and it will then show that we are up-to-date and open about our transactions. This will also add a little weight to the CLP, when it is completed.

The Parish Council was very pleased to join a three-way funding scheme where the School, the PTA and the PC all contributed £1000 each to supply a substantial numbers of books for the School's library. Investing in our young people is seen as a worthwhile activity by the PC and they would like to support other projects that provide for the young people of the Parish.

We had hoped that new arrangements for the maintenance of the street lights would reduce the time we have to wait for repairs to be completed, however this had not been the case. The company charged with providing this service has been unable to meet the needs and many parish councils suffer the same problems as we do. We are trying to find a new solution. I must thank Councillor Neil Duxbury for spending so much time chasing contractors to get repairs done.

The council has itself been at full strength for most of the last year all though we did lose Councillor George Dickson as he has gone abroad with work. George was a Planning stalwart and contributed a huge amount to this and many other areas. Councillor Sarah-Jane Somerset joined us briefly and made an immediate impact. We have since welcomed Councillors Barrie Davies and Jim Slater.

Our bimonthly meetings continue to attract a small number of "regulars". This support and interest shown in the work of PC is highly valued by councillors. I should remind everyone, that all PC meetings are open to "spectators" who are not expected to speak, but are given an opportunity to do so if they have a particular question to raise. All papers for any PC are published on the village website for perusal.

A N Collins