

## **BICTON PARISH COUNCIL CHAIRMAN'S REPORT 2024**

Well, where did the last 12 months go? Seems like only 12 weeks since I read the my annual report for 2023. Then again, time passing quickly is a sign of getting older I suppose...

Time is what we, as councillors, give voluntarily to this parish; our own time, unpaid and sometimes unnoticed and unacknowledged but this report seeks to acknowledge the time given and effort made by every one of your parish councillors.

This year, councillors paired up to address a different aspect of the Place Plan and fed back with their updates from which we can benchmark and progress on. The prioritised items on the Place Plan and their monitors: school safety, Richard & Deirdre; speeding on Holyhead Road, Wendy & Mandy; lane speed limits, Sue & Paul and Elliott & Rod for water courses and drainage.

The Place Plan itself was formatted into a SMART chart of objectives by Rod Warren who spent hours and hours on the subject and I thank him for the efforts he put in to making it understandable and workable. Our aims are now:

Specific  
Measurable  
Achievable  
Realistic &  
Timely

To myself, I pat myself on the back for repeatedly going into Lloyds Bank to see the manager about the woeful process of opening the Parish Council account there and getting it up and running and for trying to close the previous account at HSBC to be told I wasn't a signatory but several deceased people were!

To Peter, our clerk, who I recently compared to a sheepdog: hard working, determined, listening, watching, and herding us in the right direction when we stray from the point, and keeping us within the boundaries of business.

It might seem that we just turn up every month and talk about things and then repeat the next month but parish councils form the first tier of government and the closest to the community thus representing those people, delivering services to meet that local need and strive to improve quality of life for those in the parish. We are consultees, influencers, guiders, negotiators and deciders. Shropshire Council, the organisation that makes final decisions, know that Bicton Parish Council give the best reflection of how the community feels about local issues and they take our views seriously.

Planning applications our views were sought on:

Churncote Service Station

NWRR

Modifications to two grade 3 listed buildings

110 houses south of Welshpool Road

400 homes north of Mytton Oak Road

Converting a Dutch barn into a dwelling

4 house extensions

Certificates of lawfulness for use and ownership

Increase in size of caravan park

Agenda items that were discussed or actioned in the last year:

Burglary on Bicton Lane

Q&A at The Coppice

The Coppice footpath

Church Lane street light replacement

School parking

Severn Way ditches are blocked

Bicton pool is grassed over

Harlescott energy recovery plant visit

7.30 start

Dairy Scope lorry parking

The snicket surface

Litter picking

De-fib

Visit to Bickley coppice

Bicton Lane, lorry issues

Dropped kerbs at Oxon Hollow

Bank account transfer

Divisional boundary review

Community governance review

The Brethren cleaning bus shelters and promised donation

Speeding traffic everywhere

The Vas story

Potholes

PC Rich Walters does come to BPC

Steam rally traffic was better this year

Motocross

Place Plan

Phone box library

So, as you hear, Bicton Parish is a busy community although, on the surface, it appears as though not much happens here. As the chairman, I get copied in to every email and every discussion, which is interesting, educating and

time consuming. I have been chairman for 2 years and now it is time to hand over the baton to the next councillor to take on this role and would like to hand over to someone new who hasn't held the role before in order to share the responsibility amongst us. So, in order of length of time on the parish council, Wendy, Rod, Deirdre, Mandy & Paul, it's over to one of you...

Sally Maddox  
Chairman  
Bicton Parish Council

14th May 2014