

Tiverton and Tilstone Fearnall Parish Council.

Chairman's Report 2016-2017

This review of the past year allows me to highlight some of the most salient events of 2016-17 and also some current issues. First of all, Cllr. Roger Cheshire has completed the incredibly demanding and long-drawn-out work on the Beeston, Tiverton and Tilstone Fearnall Neighbourhood Plan, which is now ready to go for formal Inspection.

We recently appointed two new councillors, Ash Sharma and Leanne Vimalachandran, and we saw the resignation of Cllr. Bernard Byrd after many years of service. I am pleased that your Council is no longer an all-male line-up and that the average age continues to fall. Our Clerk, Carol Weaver, has completed her first year of office and has already sharpened up the procedures of your Council with her diligent approach and using her years of local government experience and extensive contacts.

In the coming year we have to decide what to do with the ailing chestnut tree on Smithy Green and how to restore the Green as an asset to the village. The surrounding fence posts, the bench and the notice board also need attention so we have to come up with an attractive solution and also finance it. I pointed out in my last Newsletter that our budget is under greater pressure than usual because of recent changes in the policies of Cheshire West and Chester Council, but we will continue to explore and utilise sources of funding beyond the Council Tax precept.

By the end of next week we should finally, after many years of lobbying, have decent road surfaces in Pudding Lane, Crib Lane and Huxley Lane, although the latter is all too frequently subject to flooding between the village and Brassey Green, thanks to United Utilities. The Red Fox junction still has frequent pot holes and we have also failed, so far, to get safety improvements there, such as a speed reduction or pedestrian lights, despite our continuing efforts. We are also awaiting the outcome of planning enforcement on the unlawful development of an equestrian barn on Huxley Lane as a domestic dwelling.

I have been encouraged in recent months by the number of residents who have contacted either me or my parish clerk with requests for help or more general queries, on a variety of issues that concern them. We are the first rung of local government representation and we are here to serve in any way we can, so please do not hesitate to approach us.

Gordon Ibbotson,

Chairman

8th May 2017.