

Shawbury Parish Council:

Annual Parish Meeting.

Council Chairman's Report:

Good evening and welcome to the meeting.

It has been another busy time for the Council with a range of activities taking place throughout the year. We began the year with only ten Members but were soon able to get the additional two needed to make the Council full strength and Anthony Foster and Paul Sharp have played a full and active role since their co-option.

I would remind you that the Council meets at 7.00pm in the Village Hall on the second Tuesday of each month and every meeting is open to the public when there is an opportunity to raise issues with the Members prior to the start of the official business. During the past year only been six people have attended and raised questions, mostly concerned with planning issues. The meetings are only part of the work of the Council with many activities taking place throughout the remainder of the month. Agendas for meetings are displayed on the Council notice board, in the library and the post office and can be found on the Council's web site at www.shawbury-pc.gov.uk. Once confirmed the minutes of meetings are put on display too. Concerns or details of Council activity can also be obtained from Jack Wilson, the Parish Clerk and he can be contacted by post at 6, Primrose Drive, Shrewsbury SY3 7TP; by telephone on 01743 236810 or by email at shawburypcclerk@tiscali.co.uk. Jack will do his best to solve your problem or put you in touch with a Councillor or another organisations which may be able to help.

So what have been the major issues this year?

Planning:

All planning applications for development in the Parish are sent to the parish Council by Shropshire Council for consideration and comment. This year it has been relatively quiet with virtually all the applications related to extensions, replacement buildings or change of use. There has been no further information about the proposed development of fifty properties on land opposite RAPRA and unlike many other parishes we have not been inundated with plans for development on land outside the dedicated planning boundary.

Waste Collection:

During the year we had discussions with Shropshire Council about waste collection and found out that Ringway had a contract for the regular collection of rubbish from adopted streets in the Parish. They were unaware that the Parish Council were employing someone to do the same work. As a result the Parish Council have reviewed its contract and now employ Mr. Creber to collect rubbish from the playing field, the Glebe and the cycle track two times a week.

If you find that Ringway are not providing an adequate service, please let the Clerk know or complain directly to Shropshire Council on 0345 789000 or email:

emnortheast@shropshire.gov.uk.

Street Lighting:

Last year I reported that we had appointed a new contractor for maintaining the streetlights for which the Parish Council is responsible. At the Council's request they carried out a full check on all the lights and found that there were many faults that needed addressing and that many of the lights were not up to current standards, including several which had asbestos seals requiring specialist attention. The resulting quotation for bringing all the 100+ lights to the required standard was substantial. Fortunately the Council had over the past few years set aside money for this eventuality, so there was no need to look for additional money from the Council tax budget.

The Glebe:

Having secured the lease on the extended area of the Glebe, the Council set up an independent committee to look at ways in which the area could be developed for the community. The committee ably led by Richard Bailey looked at ways in which they could access funds which were not available to the Parish Council. Five thousand pounds had been promised by Lichfield Diocese who were keen to see the area used and after a determined effort ten thousand pounds were obtained from the lottery funds and a further eighteen hundred from Shropshire Council's Local Joint Committee.

This amount of money has enabled the completion of an access pathway across the playing field and for pathways to be created round the area; drainage work has been carried out and a range of seats, picnic tables and bird boxes have been put in place. Sincere thanks are extended to Richard and his volunteer helpers for all the dedicated work which has created this first class facility for the community.

Having achieved their objectives the committee has passed the responsibility of overseeing and maintaining the area to the Parish Council. Already the area is being well used by a wide range of residents.

The Moat:

Over the past decade a small committee of volunteers led by Adrian Brown has transformed the Moat area from a virtual wilderness into the splendid facility it now is. This has been achieved by many hours of hard work supported by some money from the Parish Council and annual grants from English Heritage.

Although this area contains a Heritage site, English Heritage have withdrawn all financial support, so it will be left to the Parish Council to keep the area maintained. The Moat Committee felt that they had achieved their objectives and the committee has been disbanded.

Heartfelt thanks are extended to all those who have worked hard to create this fine area which is being further improved for residents by the creation of a number of new access paths.

Crime:

The Council has been pleased to see extended police presence in the area ably led by our beat officer David Carpenter. Crime remains relatively low although over recent months there appears to have been an increase in anti-social behaviour. We urge members of the public to be vigilant and report suspicious incidents to the police by telephoning 101.

Other:

As well as the main areas outlined, the Council has responsibility for the children's play areas, the cycle track; the playing field; the CCTV camera and the burial ground. We also keep a watching brief on highways issues, which includes pavements, drainage, road repairs, etc. and put pressure on Shropshire Council to keep them maintained to a satisfactory standard.

In conclusion I should like to express my thanks to my fellow Councillors for their dedicated help and support throughout the year and I will be happy to respond to any questions you may wish to ask.

Dave Roberts (Council Chairman).