

Chairman's Report March 25

The main news since the last full council meeting was the withdrawal of Shropshire Council's draft local plan. Whilst this might be seen to have some benefits as regards existing planning applications such as Redrow's Lyth Hill proposal not being supported by a local plan, this is only for the very short term. Not having a local plan in place leaves our parish wide open for uncontrolled development. We have already seen a screening application lodged for a proposed development alongside the A49 to the south of the village. This application was originally refused ten years ago but with government plans for a million and a half new homes, this will be only the first of many such applications. Whilst progressing the setting up of our neighbourhood plan, we were informed by the Council's Planning Representatives that Bayston Hill has been identified as a prime target for expansion. They also emphasised that if we were to object to every proposed development, we would get them all! A neighbourhood plan will allow us a limited say in where development could take place but, perhaps more importantly, we can insist on the extra infrastructure to support such development. We will discuss this further during full council.

Preparations for the Community Day are proceeding apace. We are going to need more volunteers on the BHPC side of things to help set up and run various events on the day so please advise Julie or myself of your availability.

A Climate Change Fresk on the 18th was attended by three Parish Councillors and the Clerk and proved to be very interesting. It did go to prove the work of our Carbon Neutral Working Group and our plans for the Pavilion are exactly what is needed and should set a good example to our residents.

Rob Ruscoe.