

Chairman's report December 2025

On the 9th of this month, the Redrow application, once again, came before Shropshire Council's Planning Committee. Half of the committee members were changed from the last hearing, including the Chairman, and because we were already aware of this, I requested that a second site visit was imperative for fairness. The Responsible Planning Officer turned down this request stating it was not necessary. I spoke for the Parish Council at the meeting along with Teri Trickett to emphasise the fact that Redrow had made a token slight reduction in the number of dwellings – from 118 to 112, but had increased the size of some houses to compensate. In effect, Redrow had done nothing to address the site density concerns which caused the deferment back in August. It seemed the Planning Officer was determined to get this application approved – even giving the committee members inaccurate information regarding the grading of the lost agricultural land and also stating that all pre-consultation had been carried out. The Chairman also seemed to do whatever he could to achieve the same end. The result was that four members voted for and four against. Two members abstained. The Chairman used his casting vote to grant the application. We have now been saddled with a development which is totally out of character with our village and will be a proverbial blot on the landscape.

The coming year will be another challenging one as regards further applications coming our way.

It is unfortunate that I had to postpone the next full council meeting until the 5th January. This was to give Julie and myself time to obtain some accurate information for some agenda items for this meeting.

I will look forward to seeing you all then but in the meantime I will close by wishing you and your families a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Rob Ruscoe.