

WESTON UNDER PENYARD PARISH COUNCIL

Chairman's Report for the year ending May 2008

It has been an eventful year when decisions taken elsewhere have impacted on the village. There have been 10 ordinary meetings and 1 planning meeting attended by 42 members of the public. Mrs G Caldicutt has returned to the council and Mr W Ryan was co-opted. Regrettably Mr T Moore has resigned to pursue his private interests. We thank him for all his efforts on behalf of the Parish, in particular for Bill Mills and as footpaths officer.

Planning Applications

There have been several planning applications this year, two of which caused concern to villagers. Developers wished to erect 49 houses and garages next to Seabrook Place and they and residents were invited to a planning meeting to discuss the matter in a cordial manner. Hereford rejected the plans.

The second problem is still ongoing and involves the common land adjacent to Marsh Cottage. I would like to record my particular thanks to Councillor Julie Backhouse for her unstinting efforts to represent the views of the council with all the other interested parties.

Parish Plan

Two councillors have agreed to form a working group to update the plan. A Housing Needs Survey was asked for in the plan and this should be undertaken in this financial year.

Local Environmental Issues

The annual litter pick was carried out in the middle of the year. We would like to thank all those who came to help to keep our village tidy

Our requests for line painting on the A40 were agreed and some re-defining of pavements is to take place. We are conscious that our rural roads, as many in the county, need resurfacing and whilst we will do all in our power to report problems we do appreciate the constraints on funding.

The council has paid for the bus shelter to be refurbished.

Village Hall

Once again the council has continued to support the Village Hall Committee with a contribution to the new flooring.

Precept

Over the last few years we have endeavoured to keep increases to a minimum but unfortunately costs have begun to rise dramatically and we have had to raise the precept to £5500 in order to maintain our balances.

School Closure

This was the largest problem to affect the village this year. The council strongly supports the school as a valuable part of the community. Councillors have attended the public meetings, joined in the demonstration in Hereford and prepared a letter to the Education Department. Although the immediate future of the school is secure we will continue to monitor the situation and take part in any discussions about our community.

Councillor Training

Our clerk, Keith Shilton, continues his CILCA course and keeps the council updated on the new procedures.

W Ryan attended a course for new elected councillors and I attended a course on the new procedures. Several councillors visited the Local Development Framework Workshop.

Finally, I would like to thank all the councillors for their work for the parish over the year.

I would like to thank Keith for all the extra work he has put in this year because of the village problems and the way he has kept our council within the bureaucratic guidelines.

Special thanks go to our Ward Councillor, Harry Bramer, for keeping us abreast of the latest developments from on high and responding promptly to our requests for help and guidance.

Signed..... Susan Lewis, Chairman: 26.04.08