EARDISLEY GROUP PARISH COUNCIL

CHAIRMAN'S ANNUAL REPORT, May 2020

Well what a year has just passed! First the elections in May 2019 gave us a new Herefordshire Council with a new and more inclusive approach to local politics. We elected a new Ward Councillor in Graham Jones and several new faces on Eardisley Group Parish Council.

Traffic remains a concern for all our communities, but the Highways Working Group has been successful in acquiring two new Speed Indicator Devices (SIDs) and finding grant monies which paid for them! These new machines will give us much more information about traffic speed and volume to allow us to develop our strategies in the future.

The attitude of the planning officers at Herefordshire Council has changed recently which is presenting us with some issues concerning developments in our parishes, but we are working to get our NDP to carry more weight again as soon as possible.

The impact of the weather in the last twelve months has been quite dramatic. First, we had a very dry summer; then nature decided to balance that with the wettest winter in living memory!! We had the highest flood since Christmas 1979 which affected many properties in our area. Eardisley was especially badly hit and some houses had to be pumped out by the local Fire Brigade. There was absolute chaos at Hobby Lyons Bridge where several houses were damaged. The PC had been working on a flood relief scheme above Eardisley, which we will push ahead with again as soon as we are able.

And so to March when things were just starting to look up when Coronavirus arrived and knocked us back again!

The lockdown has stopped all meetings both at local and county level. During this week, however, our clerk Alison Morgan has continued working hard preparing end of year figures for our annual audit and with the benefit of modern technology we have been able to approve them to be presented.

Because our meetings have been postponed, the current PC structure will continue as it is until we are able to have our annual meeting either in person or via digital means.

I hope very few of you have been affected directly or indirectly, but perhaps these last few weeks have given us time to reflect on our situations - looking forward positively, supporting our local services and re-igniting our community spirit.

Let's look forward to a new and better year ahead.

AN Watkins.

Chairman