EARDISLEY GROUP PARISH COUNCIL

CHAIRMAN'S ANNUAL REPORT, May 2021

Well, just when we thought things couldn't get any worse, they did!

Despite Covid-19 and lockdowns, we have managed to hold most of our meetings during the past year, either in person or virtually on Zoom.

The new Speed Indicator Devices (SID's) were deployed and the information gathered is more comprehensive and easier to understand. We are looking into putting the SIDs in different locations to give us a better picture of traffic speeds and flows, which will help us develop our strategies for the future.

We are continuing our work to improve access through the footpath system by installing more kissing gates and trying to keep the paths clear. During the year, we gave a donation to the Winforton Community Byway Project as a contribution to ongoing work to make this route more accessible.

A further grant was awarded to the Millennium Green Trust; along with many other organisations relying on fund-raising activities, the Trust was severely affected by the impact of Coronavirus. Some of the money donated will be put towards refurbishing the car park.

Rain and flooding were again on the agenda and remain a priority for the parish. The Parish Council is continuing to press Herefordshire Council and the Environment Agency for a flood alleviation scheme to be implemented.

During the year, we introduced a new, on-line accounting system. This, together with outsourced payroll processing and electronic banking has made it much easier to keep the Parish Council's financial records up to date and streamlined. Combined with Zoom meetings, we can now run the PC virtually if the need arises.

During her time as Clerk to Eardisley PC, Alison has been working towards her CiLCA (Certificate in Local Councils Administration) qualification. Alison passed the qualification in February this year and was awarded 4 exemplary submissions. I think we should congratulate her on this excellent result, which will allow the PC to develop and manage more projects in the future.

This last year has seen many changes in the way people live and work. This is likely to continue to affect communities such as ours, with more people working from home and running small businesses locally.

Whatever happens, we must look forward positively to a better year ahead.

Chairman