

## Chairman's Review of the Year - 2018

1. Firstly my thanks to my colleagues on the PC – a very supportive and helpful group with whom it is a pleasure to work. We read much about the travails of other PC's and I am happy to report that we have experienced nothing but sensible and constructive discussion of the issues.
2. Particular thanks to our Clerk, Dee Knights. She keeps us all up to the mark and makes sure we cover everything on the agenda and that actions are followed up. Once again she has kept our books of account in excellent order. This year she will have the dubious privilege of making sure we meet the requirements of GDPR – the wide ranging new requirements to keep data safe. We thought at one point that we might have to employ an outside party to do this but common sense seems to have prevailed.
3. As you know, our Neighbourhood Plan was 'made' in March 2017. That means it is now statutorily a part of SCDC's Local Plan and must be consulted when planning applications come forward. As I said last year, the Plan is not a magic bullet. We will still have to argue the case and we may not always win. But it does create a basis for the future and we are one of the first small villages in Suffolk to achieve this. As the prospect of a Northern Bypass becomes ever more likely, having a Plan at least gives us a mechanism for objecting should it threaten the village. Actually I believe that for reasons of cost and practicality it is more likely to be a 'distributor road', like Norwich, rather than a full blown dual carriageway bypass, but that is only my view. The windfarm pipeline will also help to ensure that a major new road is unlikely to be built over the top of it. I will give you a summary of the way we have sought to interpret the NP as we review the planning applications we have received over the course of the year.
4. We received 10 planning applications during the year: 4 were approved by the PC and subsequently permitted by SCDC; 6 objections were submitted by the PC, of which 1 was permitted by SCDC (Rosery Farm Cottage); 1 was withdrawn (Rosery Farmhouse); 1 was refused by SCDC but allowed on appeal to the Planning Inspector (Regency House); and 1 was refused by SCDC but an appeal is in progress (Admiral's Head). The sensitive cases included:
  - a. Rosery Farm Cottage

This was an application that had been discussed by the applicant with SCDC under a pre-application arrangement for many months. We got the statutory 14 days to comment, of which 4 were the Easter weekend. We objected on the grounds that the development was too large in the location, would intrude on the skyline of one of our Landscape Protection Areas, and was out of keeping with the Rosery Farm Group of buildings, forming as they do a key element of the approach to the village from the east, and specifically singled out in the NP as the last remaining vernacular group of farm buildings in Great Bealings. We also objected on the grounds that SCDC's Local Plan, when considering developments in the countryside, which this is, would be permissible if they were deemed an extension, which the policy states should be 'recessive', i.e. smaller than the building to which it is an extension. In this case, although the original Rosery Farm Cottage is to be retained, having been deemed a Non Listed Heritage Asset by SCDC, the 'extension' is some 5 times larger than the original cottage.

b. Regency House

The applicant sought to get permission for a second floor to be built on the extension which sits at right angles to the main house. You could say we owe our NP to Regency House and we were keen to keep SCDC to their word that permitted development rights had been removed when the new house was approved. I am happy to say that they supported our objection, but in the event were over-ruled at appeal. We did however succeed in getting the last decent tree on the property listed under a TPO at 24 hours notice – a huge gesture of support from SCDC.

c. Rosery Farmhouse

We objected because the application sought approval for the wholesale conversion of the farm buildings to residential use, again contrary to the protection of that group of buildings under the NP. We wrote a comprehensive letter of objection and the application has been withdrawn, however we suspect it will come back in due course.

5. Defibrillator. Thanks again to Colin Hedgley for his support,

this has now been installed just outside the door of the Village Hall.

6. Emergency Plan. I am very grateful to Anthony Sheppard who wrote and produced a plan which we can use if the village is struck by fire, flood, aircraft, storm, or other disaster. The plan is lodged with SCDC and is on our website. The closest we came to using it was during the snow in March, but luckily we survived unscathed.
7. Wind Farm. The work on this large national infrastructure project is well under way, the haul road is laid and the archaeological works have been completed. You may have had the chance to go to the presentation about what they found along the route. The drilling under Lodge Road is also now complete and we hope to hear soon when the actual cable laying will start. I have to say that Scottish Power have been exemplary in their responsiveness, and I am very grateful to Sarah Carter Jonas for all she has done to keep in touch with them. It shows once again that if you treat people properly, you get a like response. If you have any concerns do let me or Sarah know.
8. Boot Street Bridge. Last year I said that we were in discussion with SCC about what traffic measures we might get them to put in place. The options considered included:
  - a. Priority from W'bridge
  - b. Priority from Ipswich
  - c. Speed limit extended to Rosery Lane
  - d. Any combination of the above.

Sadly we have got absolutely nowhere. We wrote to SCC setting out our concerns and were supported by Robin Vickery, our local county councilor. However the highways department have refused to engage and have said the road from the bridge to Rosery Lane does not warrant an extension to the speed limit. This is despite the fact that they helpfully sent us the criteria for such an extension and to my untutored mind we met every single requirement. The fact of course is that money is short and potholes are getting priority. We will continue to argue the case and hope that we do not have to do so using evidence of an actual accident, as opposed to the risk of such an event.

9. Contribution to Fynn Lark News. The PC has agreed to increase our contribution to this important cross-benefice magazine. We all tend to think in terms of the internet these days but not

everybody uses it as a matter of course and the mag fulfills an important role.

10. Parish Care initiative. We have agreed to work with the PCC and are waiting for their proposal as to how this should work. If anyone would like to be involved, please let us know.
11. Looking forward to the rest of the year, we have registered to take part in the Beacons of Light project on 11th November in Melissa Proctor's field at the top of Kiln Lane. We hope to arrange a BBQ, music etc.