

Tim Barker's Report to the Annual Parish Meeting 2017

Tim reports that the year has been busy for Shropshire Council, continuing to deliver excellent services in the face of ongoing funding issues.

Our social care service is very highly rated nationally, as are many of the other things the Council does.

He notes that there will always be cases where we could have done things differently, but lessons are learned and put into place to help ensure quality is at the fore.

Yes, Shropshire Council has asked Parish and Town Councils to sometimes take on things; to be frank, in Tim's view, some of those locally based services benefit from a more local solution and the costs are dealt with and argued about on a local basis to where the delivery is.

Planning is always in the forefront of controversy, even in local communities like ours. The local plan for Shropshire is in the process of being reviewed and all of us have the opportunity to contribute, so Tim implores us not to be left out!

Locally, Pitchford Hall has returned to family ownership and Rowena and James are determined to bring it back to its former glory. Tim adds that he is proud to continue to help them by guiding visitors and providing advice.

Tim adds that Concord College continues to thrive and is a very important part of our lives in Acton Burnell, as well as the wider area.

So our two large houses are prospering.

Personally, Tim notes that he has enjoyed representing us for some 10 years. He'd do it again at the drop of a hat, but Sue and he, together and individually, want to concentrate on their business and other interests.

In any event, he is of the opinion that it's time for younger blood to step forward and look after our interests, but he will still be taking a close interest in matters though, as he is now a Parish Councillor in Cardington!

Tim finishes by saying that it's been a great pleasure for him, both living in Ruckley for some 25 years and being our Councillor for the past 10.

And he thanks us all for our help, support and friendship.