



## **Chairman's Annual Report May 2018**

Although this is an Annual report, my term of Office has only been for the past eight months as due to the sudden onset of illness the Chairman elected last May Tony Hampton resigned in September.

As in previous years the majority of our work has centred on planning applications. The Village is, very fortunately still very much a village with The Church, Primary School and Village Hall being very central to Village life for many residents. It is this "village/community" atmosphere that new and those longer established residents appreciate and members of all those organisations mentioned above and the Parish Council strive to maintain it that way. I admit though, at times, this seems very difficult. Residents are already aware of the steady growth of houses along Green Lane and it is a timely reminder to us all that those houses on the station side of Green Lane are in Kirklevington Parish and very welcome to join in with village activities. The challenge is making sure that those new residents do feel included. It is for this reason that for the first time the Parish Council is paying for our newsletter to be delivered as we hope by doing so our much widened area will be covered and those residents can hopefully start to identify with the village and attend events if they would like to do so.

As I have already stated much of the PC's time this year has yet again been taken up by planning applications. The Banks Development (up to 100 houses) and the Developer of Braeside (11 houses) were both refused by Stockton Council but both went to Appeal against the decision. Both Appeals were Written Representations, and although there were restrictions on anything extra being submitted over and above the material which we had already submitted at the planning decision meeting, we did of course respond to the addendums submitted to the Inspectors by the developers. Working with Kirklevington Action Group (KAG) two well researched additional responses, prepared by Andy Alton were submitted and I would like to acknowledge his superb work in these reports. Copies of all the verbal submissions presented to the planning committee at the time of the decision were also submitted. The Parish Council and KAG worked closely together over a long period of time for both the original planning application and the Appeals and I would like to record my thanks for all their time. The decisions should be later this month or early June.

Recently Taylor Wimpey have submitted an application for 200 houses on a site off Green Lane opposite Kirk Road, and Theakston who have permission for 100 houses on land adjacent to Yarm School Playing Fields have submitted an application to increase that to 300 houses. The Parish Council and KAG have started work to put factual reasons to object to these applications in line with the NPPF Government Guidance.

Apart from the planning we are pleased that Stockton Council has continued to operate the new bus service, Tuesday and Thursday (mostly a.m.) and the Parish has installed CCTV around the Village Hall as that area was particularly vulnerable to our “resident” vandals. We also purchased a traffic monitor which has given us valuable data to use in our planning submissions. The Water Board have also worked with us and a camera survey of the pipework has come back as “all Ok” and we have now had sight of the report. Our village website at [www.kirklevigtoncommunity](http://www.kirklevigtoncommunity) is continuing to be a good source of information.

I will finish with sincere thanks to all my fellow Council members and a big thank you to the clerk, Ruth Mazonas, who works continually hard for the Parish and was especially very involved with collating all the papers for both of our appeals which were both due in at the same time.

**Jennie Beaumont, Chair, May 2018**