



# RADFORD SEMELE PARISH COUNCIL

## CHAIRMAN'S REPORT TO THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

25<sup>th</sup> APRIL 2022

My 2021 report commenced with the words "The Chairman's Annual Report this year is truly unique". Twelve months on and the situation is no less unique. We are witnessing the atrocities of war in Ukraine and at the same time learning to live with Covid.

The first major 'procedural' event of the year was the Government withdrawing the concession to hold remote 'Zoom' meetings with effect from 7<sup>th</sup> May 2021. This meant the Parish Council having to revert to face-to-face meetings but still complying with all the Covid restrictions that remained in place. Not a simple task!

Despite Covid restrictions remaining in place it has still been a busy year for the Council. A number of items have been on the Agenda for some time and, unfortunately, still await a satisfactory conclusion. More on these later.

The year started well, Village wise. On May 6<sup>th</sup> 2021, after 4½ years of extremely hard work by all those involved, the Radford Semele Neighbourhood Development Plan went to Referendum. The result was positive, F. 219, A. 25 and 8 spoilt. The turnout was 46%. The following notice was published by WDC on 12 May 2021:-

"Warwick District Council has 'made' the Radford Semele Neighbourhood Development Plan under Section 38A(4) of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act, 2004 on 12 May 2021. The Radford Semele Neighbourhood Development Plan now forms part of the Development Plan for Warwick District. Decision and Reasons: Warwick District Council as the local authority 'makes' i.e. adopts the Radford Semele Neighbourhood Development Plan as part of the Development Plan for Warwick District".

The major outstanding Agenda item is the Traffic Management Plan. In June 2021 the Parish Council agreed to the commissioning of an independent Highway and Traffic Review with the view that this would support the plan. This was received by the Parish Council, for consideration, during the latter part of 2021. As reported last year the Parish Council Plan has been with Warwickshire County Council since April 2019. but we had now been afforded the opportunity to meet with WCC officers to discuss our issues, this meeting being thwarted by Covid. Subsequent easing of restrictions enabled the Clerk and three Councillors to meet with five Officers, face-to-face, on 21<sup>st</sup> January 2022. Our County Councillor, Wallace Redford, who is the WCC Portfolio Holder for Transport and Planning, was also in attendance. It would be fair to say that each issue received a good airing.

Action points were noted and accepted by both sides. The independent Highway and Traffic Review was also passed to the WCC Representatives. We have received a positive reply regarding double yellow lines at two junctions and new carriageway markings on the A425



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entering the village from the East. Other issues appear at an impasse. Feedback on the independent Review is still awaited.

The financial agreement between Warwick District Council and the Parish Council, relating to the A C Lloyd, S106 'Off-Site Play area' contribution, is nearing completion.

Three other Agenda perennials, 56 Southam Road, WDC Canalside Development Plan and PROW W123 remain ongoing.

The four Parish Council sub-committees have, as usual, been busy during the year. My grateful thanks to the Chairpersons and members of those Committee. Their achievements will be outlined in their own reports.

My gratitude is also extended to County and District Councillors, Wallace Redford and Valerie Leigh-Hunt for representing the Parish during the year.

I am, as always, extremely appreciative of the support and guidance that our Clerk, David Leigh-Hunt, gives to the Parish Council and to me, in particular, in my role as Chairman.

I offer my sincere apologies for any credits due that I have overlooked or for any notable omissions.

During September last year we were saddened to learn of the passing of Councillor Tony Malin. Tony had been a Councillor for many years and was a respected, enthusiastic and valued member of the Council. Even with failing health in latter years he would do his utmost to attend every meeting and also fulfil his role as the Council's Representative on the Social Club committee. This was achieved through his own determination as well as the unswerving dedication of his wife Janet, who is also a Parish Councillor. Janet and the Family have since planted a tree in his memory near the site of the Old Lodge.

Council, I table my report.

Stan Sabin

Chairman, Radford Semele Parish Council