

Cllr Gary Sumner – Annual Report

I have been the Ward Councillor for the Ridgeway Ward since 2016 and this includes Badbury (as well as about 70 homes on the edge of Badbury Park).

I am the Cabinet Member for Strategic Planning at Swindon Borough Council and also serve as representative to the North Wessex Downs AONB Council of Partners.

I am also the Chair of the Archaeologic Advisory Board to the Swindon Development Trust.

Ward Work:

I attend Chiseldon Parish Council meetings with my Chiseldon & Lawn ward Colleagues as often as possible (I have four Parish Council meetings to accommodate per month in my Borough Ward). I have completed various ward requests for maintenance items during the year.

I have met scheme managers for the £10m Junction 15 improvement scheme and invited Parish Councillors to consider both the scheme and mitigation during construction as the traffic will undoubtedly affect the village of BADBURY.

I am awaiting the final plans but hope to be able to deliver a temporary 'no right turn' into Badbury with additional signage to encourage use of the Ridgeway Road as a safer alternative than driving into Badbury village. Day House Lane will be closed for an extended period to widen the A419 bridge.

I have (in my Cabinet role) attended Public meetings in Chiseldon to discuss 'SHELAA' (Strategic Housing & Economic Land Availability Assessment) sites which are put forward by private land owners in a process set by the Government when a Local Authority reviews it's 'Local Plan'.

The site in New Road caused some controversy and listening to feedback we were able to change the grading of this site to 'not-suitable' for development. I must say how professionally Chiseldon Parish Council were in considering their response to the housing sites led by Chair Caroline Brady.

I have organised a public meeting in Badbury to discuss a smaller SHELAA site there which was not opposed by the Parish Council and this was well attended and gave me an opportunity to update residents on both the site proposed (together with the potential developer) and about the forthcoming works to Junction 15.

A future meeting is to be arranged as the formal 6-week consultation on the Local Plan Review starts in June and I want to equip residents to be able to comment with all of the facts available.

I have taken part in the village 'clean ups' in Badbury as part of the Great British Spring Clean.

Can I thank Clair for being a very efficient Clerk and liaison and a pleasure to work with, whilst I look forward to working with the new parish Council in the coming year.

Gary Sumner - Ridgeway Ward Councillor.