

REPORT OF THE CHAIRMAN OF THE PLANNING COMMITTEE

ANNUAL REPORT 2007/2008

2007/2008 has been another busy year for the Planning Committee of Chorleywood Parish Council with the number of planning applications continuing to come forward at a steady rate. As residents of Chorleywood we are fortunate to live in a beautiful part of the Chilterns, next to an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty and forming part of the Green Belt. This poses a dilemma when judging the applications that come forward; how to preserve the natural benefits that we enjoy yet allowing enough houses to be built to satisfy the needs of our current and future residents. We welcome input from all our residents whether they are in favour or against a particular application and it is your right to attend our meetings and speak if you wish.

In the calendar year 2007 there were approximately 336 planning applications. We passed some 202 without objection and of these 18 were subsequently refused and 4 were withdrawn. We expressed concern regarding specific features of 62 planning applications of which 9 were then refused. We objected to 72 planning applications of which 36 were finally approved, 30 were refused and 6 were withdrawn. As Chairman of the Planning Committee I have attended the Three Rivers Development Control Committee meetings and when necessary spoken to confirm or clarify the Parish Council's objections.

Chorleywood contains four conservation areas and it is our duty to protect these parts of Chorleywood in particular. The local residents have determined what type of development best fits with the existing dwellings and more and more they have had to fight to preserve the ambience of their particular street. The members of the planning committee are more than willing to support what the majority of the community wants. However these decisions are often the subject of appeal to the Planning Inspectorate when local views can be, and are, over ruled.

The Parish Council's Planning Committee's aims are to represent your views within the limits of planning law; to be consistent; and to be fair. My thanks go to the officers of the Parish Council who have supported your committee and also to those of you who have come and attended our meetings.

CLLR JACKIE WORRALL

Chairman of the Planning Committee 2007/08