

Much Birch Parish council

Ward member report, January 2017

Planning

Much Birch is making great strides towards producing a neighbourhood development plan but currently the plan is still at an early stage; until MB gets to 'regulation 16' stage the NDP does not carry weight in the planning process. It is likely that MB can get to reg. 16 stage towards the end of 2017 but until then any applications in 'open countryside' are likely to be unsuccessful. Whilst frustrating it may be worth holding off with these type of planning applications until the MB NDP carries more clout.

December council

The December council was uneventful apart from the presentation to Sascha Kindred of the honour of becoming 'Honorary Freeman of the county'. Sascha is a world record setting multi gold medal winning Paralympian who has dominated his sport of swimming for many years. Sascha lives in Hereford and trains in Leominster & does a lot of work with the community.

The main business of the meeting was to approve the capital budget and to adopt the county's economic vision. Both of these were done & more details are available on Herefordshire Council's website.

February council

The main item for discussion at this meeting will be agreeing the council tax budget for 2017/8; like parish councils Herefordshire Council as a unitary authority is getting less in the form of grants and is having to make some tough choices. The proposal is likely to be that we increase council tax by the maximum possible (3.9%) in order that can continue to deliver services to the most vulnerable in society.

Aside from the above it has been a quiet month since we last met in December....