

This was by far the hardest and most challenging 12 months of my 7 year tenure as Chairman, hence my decision to resign .

The second half of 2024 seemed an endless catalogue of meetings with both residents and representatives of Shropshire Homes ( SH ) ,and trying to reach a consensus about many issues without actually calling for a votes. That would have inevitably disenfranchised those who voted against issues.

Unfortunately I was not able to achieve this aim.

Looking back through my diary I had 2 meetings with SH in August, another in September and then 9 meetings with individual residents ( including the Gatehouse owners ) before our ( hugely successful ) work / social on 28th September. Informal discussions took place then a further 3 meetings with SH etc followed in October . The main problems we faced were not only the size, scale and proximity of the new development but also loss of previously unlimited parking.

After approaching our freeholder , Tapestart, I failed to negotiate a reasonable price. Eventually I convened an extraordinary meeting on November 24th to discuss the parking. It was decided not to proceed with the plan to develop the parking behind the new wall as it would have meant that the sitting out area currently used would have had to move to the communal area in front of Apartment 1.

About the same time, both residents individually and collectively from WMMC lodged formal objections with SH to raise concerns about several issues of the proposed development . However by the end of January we learned that the Council had approved their plans in their entirety without calling for a public meeting.

It seems in retrospect that our meetings with SH were always going to come to nothing as the “deal had been done “ with the planning department.

3 smaller issues that were dealt with included organising and paying for 2 green waste bins , organising the trimming of the large row of yew trees by the entrance driveway and trying to fight the box moths.

Other small jobs I undertook personally ( at no extra cost ) were to repair the broken PIR within the hallway, fix the night light timer, and change several light bulbs outside.

However I have been unsuccessful in trying to locate the leak in the flat roof above the entrance hall , as well as being unable to make any progress with the hall decoration or finding a solution to the bird problem.

After my recent accident to my leg, I don't really think me going up a large ladder is an option now !

On a personal note , it is of course, getting to be more of a problem that I am spending more time away from Shrewsbury and am not there to deal with day-to-day problems ( e.g. the drains ). I also need to address the considerable stress this role has placed on me with trying to solve problems remotely, so feel the time is right for someone else to take over the reins. I don't actually feel it is *my* responsibility to decide what happens next, but it is our *collective* responsibility.

Having said that I am truly grateful for all the help and support I have received ...you know who you are !