

## **CHAIR REPORT OF PLANNING 2018-19**

During this Council year the Planning Committee of Aylesford Parish Council has dealt with 173 applications and raised 23 objections. Tonbridge & Malling Borough Council have refused 2 of those and 12 were granted permission with another 9 still waiting for a decision.

The Planning Committee goes through each application on a ward basis with local councillors from their respective areas making an assessment as to the value of the development in respect of both the applicant and their immediate neighbours. Consideration is given to the effect on any scheme upon its locality, the environment and the aesthetic appearance of the street scene. By far the majority of applications are for projects such as a change of garage or to a room, adding an extra bedroom, changing windows and of course rural areas of the Parish applications for tree felling or pruning.

It has been a big year for Planning Committee with it having to respond and comment on the TMBC Local Plan. This took a lot of time and hard work by the Clerk and Officers in preparing a measured and fair response to a very long and complicated document. Hopefully in the forthcoming year the Planning Inspector determining the Local Plan will take into account the views expressed by this Council. However, whatever the result this Council will be ready to ensure that it will achieve the best results it can for its local residents.

Amongst the projects looked at was an amended proposal for the Old Upper Bell site in Blue Bell Hill Village for a block of 10 flats and 4 semi-detached houses which was regarded as over development of this site, this was subsequently refused by TMBC.

In closing I would like to thank Janet and Neil for all the hard work that goes into the preparation for the meetings, and to Cllr Susan Dorrington for undertaking the role of Vice Chair when I have been unavailable.

Cllr Barry Smith  
Chairman of Planning 2018-19