**Annual Assembly 2024/5: Report of Planning Committee Chairman**

Firstly, I’d like to recognise all the time and effort volunteered by Committee Members over the past 12 months. We meet often, on average every other week, and always in the evening, with Counsellors rarely able to get home until well past nine o’clock. Thank you, for all the time and the effort that members contribute to the task of reviewing local planning applications.

I wish to particularly thank Mrs Stiasny for her being Chair of the Committee and her personal contribution to the Council.

The focus of the Committee is to support and help facilitate the development that is needed and wanted by Parishioners, whilst also protecting the valuable historic and ecologically important area that we are lucky enough to live in. We do not make decisions as we are a consultee within the District Planning process.

We considered more than 75 applications, ranging from full scale building projects, to small alterations, and from residential dwellings to agricultural buildings. There have even been a few applications affecting Public Rights of Way.

Notably the Committee has taken time to consider projects affecting some well-known and significant structures in the parish. We hope we have played a small part in ensuring their protection through being given a new lease of life, whilst also preserving their past.

We look to seek the SDC Officers thorough review of the Applications to ensure they meet the guidelines off the Village Design Statements and the Conservation Areas. As much of our Parish is within the National Landscape (previously known as Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty) we ask for external lighting and the impact of fenestration to be conditioned wherever possible.

For consistency, all our comments are written in the objection section of the reply to SDC to ensure they are noted by the Planning Officers.

Planning Committee meetings are held on the fourth Monday of each month at 7.30pm, and at the end of Council meetings which are held on the second Thursday of each month. Members of the community are welcome to attend if they wish to comment on an application.

Chris Haslam

Chair of the Seal Planning Committee 22nd May 2025