

## **Chairmans Annual Report 2008**

Another year has gone by with its associated problems to be addressed by the council.

Planning has taken up much of our time this year, many extensions and alterations to buildings have been applied for and most have made it through, including a long overdue extension to St Benedict's Primary School which is now almost complete. The school is so popular and attains very good reports from the Ofsted inspectors, it will, due to the extension, now be able to accommodate many more pupils.

The Parish Council has a number of meetings with Colin Huby, the Housing Enabler for Ryedale. His job is to help identify a need and possible sites for low cost housing in our village.

As you may know the Village Plan pinpointed a need for such homes among many other things. The Council along with Colin Huby and local residents, short listed possible development sites in the village.

The Village design Statement is well underway now. Freda Shaw and friends have had a taster day that was a great success, and helped pin point the development of the village in a constructive way.

Looking around the village we found many of the streetlights were old and beyond repair and we intend to replace them next year.

There have been many meetings for the Councillors to attend this year with the Fire Service, Police, National Parks Planning and Councillor refresher courses to name but a few.

Lately the village shop has changed hands and I am sure the Parish would like to take this opportunity to thank Anne and Steve Smallman for providing such a good service over the last 20 years. We wish the new owners every success.

We are lucky to retain the post Office with the shop and the bus service will also remain.

There are new tenants in the Whit Horse, which I understand will be opening shortly after refurbishment.

I would like to thank all my fellow Councillors and Dinah for all their hard work during the year and also the many other people( too many to mention) who have worked hard to keep the village tidy and make it a great place to live.

Richard Kirk  
Chairman.