Shropshire Council have been through another difficult year with still further cuts in funding from Central Government. We think that Shropshire Council still offer value for money for the services that they provide.

Shropshire Council set up a Task and Finish group to look at all aspects of planning including looking at setting up one Planning Committee for the whole of Shropshire. After several meetings and good debates it was decided that the Council would keep the three committees, North, Central and South.

There is a further planning review taking place to look at the scheme of delegation because the Shropshire Councils target is 94 percent of applications being delegated. With still a shortage of planning officers this should speed up the process because under the scheme of Delegation there is not a full-length, detailed report to draw up like the applications that are determined by Committee.

As you all know Council Tax was raised this year 1.9 percent plus a further 2 percent to go towards adult social care because this takes the largest amount of funds that SC receive from government.

A review of Leisure, Swimming pools, Libraries and Museums is underway at the moment. This is not just on a local level but on a national level throughout the country.

We keep hearing about Highway matters - potholes etc. We think that we are well served in this part of the County. Both David and Lee have a good working relationship with the Highways Department.

Keith Barrow stood down from the Leadership of Shropshire Council in December last year. Keith did some good work whilst leader. Cllr Malcolm Pate was elected as the new leader. Malcolm is an experienced leader, having led Shropshire County Council up until 2009. He changed some Cabinet roles and re-shuffled the members on Cabinet. Lee retained his Cabinet position in charge of Adult Social Care for Shropshire. Malcolm wants to see an open and transparent approach and has re-instigated the Backbenchers committee and shifted more decision making to Cabinet and away from Portfolio-holder delegated decisions.

We have enjoyed another year of working with Church Stretton Town Council. We know the Town Council and Councillors have Church Stretton at heart and must be congratulated on how it looks after the area and facilities.

We look forward to working with you and the residents of Church Stretton for the year ahead.

Lee Chapman and David Evans
Shropshire Councillors for Church Stretton / Craven Arms