Roy’s oral history gives an insight to life as a Parish Councillor in Hambleton, gained in over 30 years as a Councillor. This extract gives a small insight into his thoughts on some of the frustrations experienced over the years.

” I suppose the main frustration that I've felt as being a Parish Councillor is the apparent difficulty that we have in persuading Selby District Council that we, as villagers' representatives, know what the residents of the village want to happen. And quite a lot of development has occurred in the village, which you expect to happen, but some of the development has been out of context with the village. The Redrow development down Station Road, with its hotchpotch of houses, is not really in keeping with the thought of the village, but there was little we could do against that, though we did try to object.

We've had major objection in 2012 -- yes, it must be 2012, was when the fairground people raised planning requests, to develop land off the new bypass for their own winter quarters and, also, residential quarters. The village thought that wasn't quite right for that and we made strong objections. And we succeeded in getting the District Council to agree with us when they rejected their application, but on appeal the Planning Inspectorate felt that they had a reasonable case and granted permission for that. There was a variety of restrictions, or conditions, placed upon the planning granting, but, to date, no action has taken, so who knows?

At the moment, we're struggling with planning applications in the village for development owing to the landbank situation that Selby District Council don't have an adequate of for five years of development land (2016). And consequently, there will be some 120 houses approximately built along the Main Road, annexed with Station Road, on land previously owned by Alan Lister, the former Chairman of the Parish Council.

Since the early '80s and late '70s, Hambleton has, because of the development, has become a commuting village. There's insufficient work in the village to sustain the number of people. When Hambleton was a village and the number of farms were great and, obviously, the massive development in agriculture has changed things, there was a high proportion of farm workers. And everybody knew everybody else.”