

Gwilym Butler - October 2020 Briefing

1. Community and rural Strategy coming to cabinet shortly. Council will be looking to put areas forward for pilots on new ways of working with communities and partners. I would like to put forward our place plan area forward for a pilot subject to your support . Once terms of Reference are known you can make a formal decision. It will be a huge opportunity to gain more influence on local issues and ways of working moving forward .
2. I am lobbying for the decentralisation of Shirehall to utilise Cleobury Country and the library here as a rural base for the South East of the county and think this will have to be looked at in the review of the Library funding if we are successful in taking a holistic approach on the whole situation.
3. As I am sure you are aware Covid is spiking again. Although Shropshire is managing well at present we must be on our guard at all time. SC has officers who can advise the public and business if they need any guidance. We have launched “Step up Shropshire” and there are posters and social media content you can find on SC web site under Community Posters and Covid Response. Please support and circulate.
4. I am Lobbying Steve Smith (new assistant director for roads) on the state of roads and drains, got temporary repair on road by Fountain in Cleobury.
5. Place plan officers are now back at work following their secondment on Covid Business grants which has been a 6 days a week March until 1st August to get funds out ASAP and has been delivered very professionally quickly and with a good take up. They may,subject to Covid now be contacting T and Pcs to see if any changes are needed to the Place Plans. Please agenda to look at your Place Plan to see if anything needs to be updated.
6. Consultation on Pavement parking by Central government is out should you wish to respond.SC is doing a response and any views would be appreciated. The view so far is local councils should have more power to issue fines etc and sort the problems locally. There is not a one size fits all, if you ban cars completely you need to find somewhere to put them and I think you would alienate more people than you would please .
7. White paper on planning is out from Government for consultation. Is quite scary in places very pro- development and thinks getting less local voice would speed up the process. It does not address the thousand of acres major developers have land banked. The council is making a response via cabinet shortly.SC will be opposing many of the proposed changes not suitable for a rural shire.
8. The consultation results on The Local Plan go to cabinet shortly and then hopefully out to the next consultation before inspection and final adoption. The Bridgnorth allocations are the most controversial.
9. We believe every option is being looked at for next years elections which effect us all , whether all Postal, deferred for 6 or 12 months, all due to the pandemic .I would be surprised if we are in a place to have people at voting stations by early May.
10. Some PC are still meeting in public which cannot be supported by SC .SALC can assist and help in setting up zoom meetings as and when required.

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