

Gwilym Butler - Monthly Report March 2021

1. Adult social care budget has come in within budget and this is finally showing some improvement following new ways of working and intervention. However Children's Services is under severe pressure with more than 500 children now in care in Shropshire up about 200 within the past 3 years. The pandemic I believe has had a profound effect on this with the schools being shut and new Policing policy with immediate intervention where required. I believe we will have quite a challenge post pandemic to help people effected and Shropshire Council is already working with partners to understand this and put processes in place.
2. The local plan process has been expanded and the final consultation is now going forward to be looked at by full council in July.
3. Litter picking has been undertaken across the patch by volunteers for which I am very thankful. Shropshire Council is looking at putting policy in place to provide volunteers with equipment and collect rubbish etc. As soon as information is available I will report.
4. Purdah started on the 15th March and people can put their nominations in for elections by 8th April. I would recommend doing it early in case there are any errors.
5. Postal votes can be applied for up to 5pm on Tuesday 20th April . Proxy votes can be applied for up to 27th April.
6. Highways continue to be of major concern and I would be grateful if reports can be logged at Customerfirst@Shropshire.gov.uk , please copy me in on Gwilym.Butler@Shropshire.gov.uk the more people that report the better . I also take photos and email them on .
7. Neighbourhood fund where open market housing has been built will be coming in April for local councils to spend on local items. The council is looking to provide a catalogue style document for councils where they can see the cost and highways requirement for such things as Village Entrance White gates ,VAS signs, Grit boxes, litter bins, Railings etc to make it easier for councils to procure such items .
8. A scoping project is about to start to understand how Shropshire Council can enable local councils to work post pandemic with greater technology, possibly providing hardware and broadband facilities to continue to enable virtual meetings and or hybrid meetings etc .This will all be part of improving communications with Shropshire Council and us all being fit for the next generation and embracing technology to be inclusive to all, save time and money and help the climate change agenda .
9. The Covid numbers have dropped dramatically in Shropshire currently around mid thirties per 100,000 but we must not be complacent and Shropshire council has policies in place to help individuals and help businesses open safely as per the Governments Road Map.

Best wishes for the Easter Holidays stay safe

Regards CLLR GWILYM BUTLER