

Cllr Simon Harris - Monthly Report May2021

I have based the framework below on the 'action points' that emerged from Kinlet's questionnaire on its Parish Plan. If you would like any other topics covered please let me know. I trust that the information below is of interest:

Housing:

Shropshire has 139k households (2018), with a population of 323,000 (57% rural) and this is expected to grow by 28% by 2043.

Transport and Accessibility:

The North West Relief Road is basically around Shrewsbury, but there were posters in Cleobury bringing it to the attention of the Division, it remains a hot topic - and is likely to remain so for a while yet.

Highways, Traffic and Road Safety:

91% of Shropshire's 3,233miles of highway are classified as rural. 7,000 potholes have been registered as needing attention.

Local Services and Infrastructure:

55% of household waste is recycled - compared to 42% across England.

Countryside, Recreation and Heritage:

There are 7,000 Grade 1, 2 and 3 listed buildings in Shropshire

Community, Safety and Crime Prevention:

Lateral Flow Testing kits are available on-line - and can be delivered in 24hours of ordering.

Grants of £500- are available for people that will suffer financial hardships if they self isolate.

Hardship Grants are also available - telephone 03456789078

There are grants available to assist providers of summer holiday activities for children - check the Council website.

Local Economy:

There are 15,870 business in Shropshire >90% employ less than 10 people; only 40 employ more than 250. The unemployment rate was 3.7% in 2020.

Education and Training:

89% of Shropshire's schools have been rated 'good' by OFSTED.

Standard of Rural Living:

As of 17May up to 6 people / 2 households will be permitted to meet indoors and 30 people outdoors - indoor hospitality can reopen.

There is a focus at the libraries on mental health, with books available to assist people struggling with loneliness and other issues.

Local Democracy and Engagement:

The political make up of Shropshire Council after the May21 elections is: Conservative 43, Liberal Democrat 14, Labour 9, Green 4, Independent 4.

On Monday 17th the Conservatives will be choosing the new Leader.

Only 38% of those eligible voted in the Local Elections.

Miscellaneous:

Shropshire Council's total spend is £554m - of which Adult Services £180m; Children's Services £174m and infrastructure, economic growth, homes/communities and general commercial services £119m.

Simon Harris
Councillor Cleobury Mortimer Division