

Councillor's Monthly Report August2021

To vax or not to vax – that is the question. The vax roll out via the Cleobury Medical centre continues to be a success; with roll out targets being reached. In the last week of July approx. 86% of patients registered have had at least one vax. So we should feel safer. And yet anecdotally there are still those locally that refuse to have the vax; who presumably would take the NHS's advice on just about everything else when it comes to their health or protecting their families well being.

My understanding is that if you have the vax you are less likely to pass the virus on, eg infect vulnerable people, and, should you catch COVID you are much less likely to be hospitalised. One of the Council's portfolio holders has told me that all of those in hospital with COVID in Shropshire have not been vaxxed.

The Highways situation seems to start to be improving – with the B4555 now repaired, work currently ongoing on the B4199 (which is long overdue), there is scheduled work also on the B4363 at Kinlet Bank and the B4117. However, we are in for the long haul and must keep pushing for improvements. When the portfolio holder for Highways visits in August I hope to take him to those roads that are in dire need of repair. Hopefully this will get more potholes filled in.

Belatedly the Council has explained that the Highways service depot in Bridgnorth will be closed as part of a rationalization programme, designed to make the current resources stretch further – no jobs will be lost and (we have been told) the services we receive will not deteriorate. The idea is that the Council, and its contractor (Keir), will be better located to work together. And that any resulting cost savings can be redirected towards road maintenance. It should be said that the Street Scene depot in Bridgnorth will not be closing – or so I believe.

It is worth pointing out that the relationship between the Council and Keir is subject to an internal audit report. Furthermore, this year the external auditors (Grant Thornton) have included this relationship in their work on whether the Council gives 'Value for Money'.

Households will soon be in a position to order new wheelie bins; which will be used to collect the recycled 'rubbish'. Not only will these bins enable households to recycle more, as they are significantly larger than the boxes, but they will also reduce the 'rubbish' that otherwise gets blown out of the recycle boxes as they wait to be collected every other week. These new bins are not compulsory, so if you don't have the space you can continue with the boxes. And, if you want one you will NOT be charged.

I am aware that Parishes (and individuals) continue to litter pick and keep our Highways looking good. Kinlet Parish Council has now received its own 'picking' kit from Street Scene. If your Council wants some kit – please let me know. I am happy to work with Street Scene to get all the kit we need,

Simon Harris
Councillor Cleobury Mortimer Division
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