

Gwilym Butler December report 2021

1. I have spent time with WSP the Councils highway surveyors who are undertaking a survey of the A4117 from the cattle grid at Clee Hill all the way through to the border at Far forest excluding the town centre of Cleobury which is under a different scheme. The purpose of this is to put a case together for overall improvement and maintenance and hopefully into the budget for 2022/23. It will look at speeding, drainage and flooding issues signage etc. Once a draft plan is out it will be consulted with all the appropriate Town and Parish Councils for comment. The B4363 is also being looked at from Cleobury to Kinlet taking into account the Six ashes junction and the issue of speeding through Baveney Wood.
2. The financial settlement has been received by government and it is only a one year settlement again. We are able to increase Council Tax by 1.99% and another 2% for Adult Social Care a total increase of 3.99% and will be able to produce a balanced budget for 22/23 taking into account further savings of circa £30 million. The details are being sorted and the paper goes to cabinet on the 5th January with full consultation thereafter for 6 weeks prior to endorsement in full Council in late February 2022.
3. The future of Acton Scott working farm near Church Stretton will be up for consultation in the spring as it currently costs the Council a considerable amount to subsidise it and we need to look at new ways of working or we can maintain it as being viable in the current financial situation.
4. Its precept time again and I urge all local councils to look at their precepts and see how they can further support their communities moving forward both with local maintenance via the Lengthmans Scheme and Local voluntary groups and local economy. The financial situation of all Local authorities is going to get even tighter and the support of local councils will be crucial.
5. I recently had my Flu jab and booster at Cleobury Medical centre and it was so pleasing to see so many people attending and being jabbed so quickly and efficiently by the team there for which I and am sure most people reading this are grateful for such a good facility on our door stop as I am .

May I take this opportunity to wish you and your loved ones a Happy Christmas and a Healthy New Year. Any issues or questions do not hesitate to contact me on 07801099015 or Gwilym.Butler@Shropshire.gov.uk.