

SEPTEMBER 2022 REPORT

Cllrs Gwilym Butler and Simon Harris: Cleobury Mortimer Division

SHROPSHIRE UNITARY COUNCIL

1. Waste Disposal: I asked Veolia about the plastic that we put out for recycling. Not all is recyclable ie in 2021 the split was 82% was recyclable target plastics (bottles, pots, tubs, trays etc) and 18% was non recyclable, non target plastics (films, rigid plastic etc). All target plastic is sent to the recycling plant (in Essex) for recycling. At the plant the different types (HDPE/PET/PP) of recyclable plastic are identified. Some recyclable plastic is sent to the EU under a full audit trail, which is designed to ensure that these exported plastics are genuinely recycled. As for the non recyclable plastics they are processed through thermal treatment. None are 'dumped overseas'.

2. It seems clear that winter is going to be difficult as the cost of fuel increases – worryingly this could well mean that the most vulnerable (isolated and financial stretched) could face a depressingly cold winter; notwithstanding the Government's efforts to alleviate costs. The financial guru Martin Lewis has suggested that parishes via village and parish halls may want to consider setting up warm rooms ie where vulnerable people and those in fuel poverty can gather people for community and warmth.

Shropshire Council with other partners have set up a Social task group to provide as much help and advice on getting through the pressures likely this winter along with a Hardship fund which people can apply to for help with their utility bills and food. Please make those suffering aware. Further details are on www.shropshirecouncil.gov.uk ,or www.shropshire.gov.uk/cost-of-living-help.

3. Litter Bins: one of our parishes has asked the Council to provide some new bins. I thought it may be useful to share the response: “due to budget restraints, we can only replace broken bins. New bins have to be purchased and the emptying cost of each bin met - as follows: Bin and installation £550 and emptying cost per year £125 per bin. If Councils have Neighbourhood funding this could be used for this purpose for capital purchase and emptying done locally.

4. Shortly the new round of Covid boosters for the 50+ and vulnerable will be launched on top of Flu jabs. Please ensure you take up your boosters as soon as possible. There is a concern that the last two winters with lockdown has seen Flu being quite dormant and it may make a strong comeback this winter.

5. We start the Autumn with severe pressure on finance especially around inflationary pressures. How local authorities cope with the pressures of maintaining facilities with the burden of inflation and fuel costs will be a challenge. We hope once the new Government cabinet is in place this will be addressed centrally, we can but hope. We will keep you updated .

6. Please be mindful the A4117 from Cleobury High street to the Worcestershire border is still on track to be resurfaced late October /November which will require day time closures of the road.

Please do not hesitate to contact us should you have any questions.

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