

November 2022 report from Cllrs Gwilym Butler & Simon Harris

1. Cleobury Mortimer Mens Shed (CMMS) officially opened in the Summer and we can report is really busy with membership income for the past quarter at £405 . The Shed will continually fund raise for funds to help with repairs and renewals and the cost of running the Shed with utilities at a high cost. Any donation the town /parish councils can make would be greatly appreciated to this new community resource; which is already well used. The Shed recently delivered a new notice board for Kinlet PC and has undertaken work for bird boxes, large wooden flower boxes to name a few and is open to other commissions from within the community.
2. The number of children in care appears to be flat lining at around 650. Included in that figure is our share as a local authority to fund unattended children that cross the Channel. Our charge is for 52 refugee children that have come across - and although not in our physical care Shropshire Council has to fund them.
3. This year's budget is seeing severe pressure from inflation and recruitment issues - as all Local Authorities are. We currently have an in year deficit of circa £9 million and are working on the future financial years with a current deficit of £35million against a budget of around £600-620 million.
4. With the cost of living crisis the Council has coordinated a Social Task group Working with all partners across Shropshire. This includes Citizen Advice Shropshire, SALC, Age UK, Shropshire Food Poverty, partners in the health service and DWP to name but a few. The Council's website has a comprehensive page 'Cost of Living Help' that signposts a wide range of organisations that can assist eg 'find a foodbank' and who can help with managing debt, as well as what financial support is available.
5. A map of Warm Welcome Spaces is available under 'A Warm Welcome in Shropshire'- the Cleobury library is certainly a 'go to' warm place.
6. We are seeing a large number of the rural roads and lanes already being put into the capital programme for major repair and re surfacing in the next financial year which is good news. The local clerks should have already seen these coming through.
7. Shropshire Council continues to work towards having its own operations at net carbon neutral by 2030 – as well as ensuring that its suppliers ie what it purchases in terms of, for example Highway maintenance, are also net carbon neutral. The Council has set up a solar farm. Furthermore, work is underway to assist the county itself to move to carbon neutrality eg with EV charging points being installed – there will be EV charging points in 2 car parks in Cleobury.
8. The Council's leadership team has been awarded a bronze accreditation by the Carbon Literacy Trust – which basically means that the Cabinet 'gets the issues' posed by climate change.
9. The Council aims to digitalise its operations and does not want anyone left behind. Therefore a programme has been rolled out via the Council's libraries to assist anyone that would like a better understanding of 'the digital world'– but the programme is looking to volunteers to help teach. If anyone is interested please contact Cleobury Library or either of us.

Gwilym.Butler@shropshire.gov.uk

Simon.R.Harris@Shrosphire.gov.uk