

April 2023 Report from Cllrs Gwilym Butler & Simon Harris

1. For those people not on the main gas grid, which I believe is all our residents in this Council ward, they need to check they have received their extra £200 fuel relief -which should have been credited to their account with their electricity supplier. If you are not the holder of your electricity account for your property, off grid, or supplied by landlord, etc you can also apply for this rebate:

<https://www.gov.uk/apply-alternative-fuel-bill-support-if-not-automatic>

<https://www.gov.uk/apply-energy-bill-support-if-not-automatic>

If you are not online please call: 0808 1753287

2. The Childe Endowment Trust fund is opening soon for financial help for students going onto further education and or apprenticeships. Application forms are available from Lacon Childe School , Gwilym.Butler@Shropshire.gov.uk or Rev Justin Parker of MFG Solicitors: Adam House Birmingham Road Kidderminster. The closing date is 31st May 2023.

If you are resident of Neen Savage Parish there is the Edwards Hinckesman Trust that was established in the 19th century to assist with the cost of education, contact: Charles Whitworth edwardshinckesman@gmail.com

3. Shropshire Council has received £4.1 million from Government for Household Welfare Support around the cost of living crisis. Anybody who needs support should go to the Shropshire Council Website and select the Cost of Living icon. Help can be given for support with Council tax and household bills, insulation, transport costs and much more. If you are unable to get online please contact your local Parish or Town Council or Local Library for further support.
4. If you are considering having a street party for the forthcoming Coronation of King Charles you have up to the 16th April to apply for an official road closure. Details are on Shropshire Councils Website . So far 17 applications have been received.
5. Fix My Street (FSM) continues to a 'work in progress' and we have raised the issues that have been brought to our attention with the Highways team at the Council. There is now a senior sponsor who is reviewing what has been described as a system that is 'rather more complex than initially sought' with the intention of getting the basics correct. We would like to see that 'completed' means that the job has actually been completed and not just registered as in need of completion. Also we would like to see a time frame included.
6. Shropshire Council is now consulting on proposed changes to its Customer Service Centre (CSC) opening times. The CSC handles telephone and other forms of contact from its customers for around 50 different Council services. It is currently open from 8am to 6pm Monday to Friday and 9am to 1pm on Saturdays. Some parts of the CSC handle complex issues for Shropshire's residents, things like Adult Social Care, concerns for children, risk of homelessness or financial crisis affecting families. These types of contact will always need a skilled adviser and **will not be affected** by the proposed changes.

The consultation can be accessed: <http://www.shropshire.gov.uk/CSCconsultation>