

March 2023 Report from Cllrs Gwilym Butler & Simon Harris

1.Planning Regulations Update: SC has been asked to comment on the proposed changes to the National Planning Policy Framework – and this is a ‘work in progress’. However, a key take away is that the current ‘standard methodology’ by which the central Government decides the number of houses that an area needs will, in future, be open to challenge by the Local Authority which will be able to propose a lower level of housing need. Hopefully leading to more locally driven housing development. Also Local Authorities will no longer be obliged to ‘review’ their green belts in order to meet identified housing needs.

2.Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA): SC has a statutory requirement to complete a JSNA over the coming 24mths; which is designed to develop an understanding by the Public Health authorities of the health needs across the county – with the intention, over time, to improve public health outcomes attempting to make them the same; no matter where you live. This exercise will mirror the Place Plan areas and Parish / Town councils will be approached for input. This exercise is more than simply a review of access to primary care – and will include what people feel they need eg swimming pools and libraries / internet access, to lead physically and mentally healthy lives.

3.The Local Plan progress: The ‘Interim Findings’ of the Planning Inspectors on the Local Plan have now been completed. The Inspectors have concluded that the SC has met it legal ‘Duty to Cooperate’ with adjoining authorities – where there had been objections. SC is now able to proceed to the ‘Stage 2’ hearing sessions and continue to work towards the adoption of the Plan – and a timeline is currently being prepared. As a reminder the adoption of a Local Plan means that SC will remain in control of development within the County as opposed to facing higher levels of unplanned speculative development.

4.Modern Day Slavery: Simon has completed a Local Government e-learning course on the issue of modern day slavery which covers how it can be identified and, in many ways more importantly, how it can be reported and prevented. This is not just an issue that affects the lives of trafficked people living in urban environments – It can affect and damage the lives of vulnerable people across all sectors of our economy. Do let us know if you would like more information.

5.The issues with the A4117 has been reported. The burst fire hydrant at Mawley which created the water down to the Blunt arms has broken up the repaired road leaving pot holes. The road is due to be repaired and have a top coat all the way from Newbridge to the county border.

6.The Financial plan for 24/28 is due to be passed at Council and this will propose a Council Tax rise of 4.99% for the forthcoming year .

7.Since the resurfacing of the road in Cleobury and the reinstallation of road markings the Councils enforcement team are out on a regular basis day and evening checking vehicles parked illegally and issuing tickets .I have seen several vehicles with tickets on yellow lines and the zigzags by the crossing , please be aware.

Cllrs Gwilym Butler and Simon Harris

Cleobury Mortimer Division

28 February 2023