

Councillors Report Local May 2024

Healthy People : Healthy Economy : Healthy Environment : Healthy Organisation

1.Sewage: STW sewage plant Cleobury Mortimer releases into the river Rhea 2023. Figures were released in April by the Environment Agency covering the number of releases into the Rhea in 2023. There were 46 releases (38 in 2022) and these were over 254.17 hours (387.31 hours in 2022). There is no clear information as to whether these releases all took place on days of heavy rainfall and STW have declined to advise if there were any releases on non rain days. The latest information of the quality of the Rhea dates from 2022 and can be found <https://environment.data.gov.uk/catchment-planning/WaterBody/GB109054044260> . The only positive news is that we understand an application is to be submitted for bathing quality status in the Severn (presumably in Shrewsbury), we have asked for the Council to assist with this application.

2.Council (Unitary, Parish and Town) Elections in 12months: as we all enter the final year before elections we thought it may be worth reminding ourselves of the Nolan Principles covering behaviour in Public Life:

Selflessness – Holders of public office should act solely in terms of the public interest.

Integrity – Holders of public office must avoid placing themselves under any obligation to people or organisations that might try inappropriately to influence them in their work. They should not act or take decisions to gain financial or other material benefits for themselves, their family, or their friends. They must declare and resolve any interests and relationships.

Objectivity – Holders of public office must act and take decisions impartially, fairly and on merit, using the best evidence and without discrimination or bias.

Accountability – Holders of public office are accountable to the public for their decisions and actions and must submit themselves to the scrutiny necessary to ensure this.

Openness – Holders of public office should act and take decisions in an open and transparent manner. Information should not be withheld from the public unless there are clear and lawful reasons for so doing.

Honesty – Holders of public office should be truthful

Leadership – Holders of public office should exhibit these principles in their own behaviour and treat others with respect. They should actively promote and robustly support the principles and challenge poor behaviour wherever it occurs.

3.Green and Household Recycling Centres Consultation: From 9 April to 20 May Shropshire Council is carrying out a six-week consultation on proposals to introduce an annual subscription fee of £52 for the collection of garden waste – and about the future operation of the council's five household recycling centres. Of all the proposed spending reductions

this has been the one that is most frequently identified as being controversial. The consultation isn't just a binary 'yes' or 'no' but does seek opinions on the best way to manage waste collection.

All householders in the county use our waste services and we want to encourage as many people as possible to take part in this consultation.

The consultation webpage is www.shropshire.gov.uk/gardenwastebudget2024.

4. Cleobury Mortimer Medical Centre: we attended a meeting of the Patients Voice at the medical centre and would encourage everyone that uses this excellent facility to consider joining. The Patients Voice is a means whereby the community can assist the local GP practice as it looks after the community's health needs. The medical centre can now offer access to a NHS physio and a NHS nutritionist – either via a GP or by self referral; simply ask the Receptionist for either of these services.

5. Budget update

The [2024/25 budget pages](#) on our website have been created to give a clear and up-to-date illustration of our financial position and the steps we are taking to becoming a financially sustainable council.

They include [frequently asked questions](#), which are regularly updated and include the “till receipt” issued with council tax bills to help explain to the public how we spend the council's budget. There is also information on how to [sign up for consultation and survey](#) alerts, so we can engage as many residents and stakeholders as possible in our next steps, for example the consultation on garden waste which is now live.

Please share these with your communities and we will continue to be transparent about our progress.

6. Public Space Protection order

Cabinet has passed the above order which was out to consultation over the winter . This will introduce dog restraints where necessary which will also make it easier for the council to prosecute the minority owners who let their dogs foul public areas and do not clean it up afterwards

CLLrs Gwilym Butler and Simon Harris

Cleobury Mortimer Division

7 May 2024