

Dear Councillors

It has been over 12 months now since I took up the role of Unitary Councillor. I have with the help of my wife Pamela (secretary) chased up and dealt with many local issues. Attended parish meetings, had onsite meetings with Shropshire Wildlife, Shropshire Council Highways Officers, Parish Councillors and local constituents.

Stottesdon

After the last parish meeting, I had a drive around Northwood Lane, I could see that it is in a state. I have requested a meeting with Andy Keyland the Highways manager so I can bring up any concerns you have.

Kinlet

I have again written to the Ecology department regarding the lighting that is affecting the bats and local residents. Since I have had no reply, I have found another contact – Rob Bowland, so I have written to him. If there is no favourable outcome, I will contact the developers.

Neen Savage

I have chased up when the works at the ford will take place. I think Andy Keyland is on holiday. I have a meeting with Andy Wilde on 11th June if there is anything you would like me to bring up.

Hopton Wafers

I have reported the traffic lights at the bridge at Hopton Wafers and requested to know when the works are going to be carried out. Pamela, has recently met with Stuart Anderson MP for Shropshire and has asked for his help to bring forward the Blount works, and also the Hopton Bridge works. I have visited the road surfacing on the Doddington road, and it looks to be a satisfactory job. I had an email from Andy Keyland the Highways manager that they hope to get started on the massive pothole on the Catherton Common to Cleeton road in the next few weeks. They have had a job cancellation so hopefully it will get done sooner. I have also asked for the potholes from Hopton Bank down to the cattlegrid be filled at the same time if possible. They are deep and dangerous, until they are fixed, drivers please be careful.

Wheathill

It was a shock to hear that Jane is no longer the landlady at the Three Horseshoes. I thank her for being a welcoming landlady and wish her well in the future. I have had no updates regarding the speed restriction signs.

Farlow

I attended the recent parish meeting, and it was a pleasure to get to speak to some of the local constituents. It was a very enjoyable evening with several speakers, very informative and there was a good feeling that everyone was working to keep the community involved and informed. Thank you to Helena and Fern for organising also for the refreshments, they were very welcome after a long meeting.

Shropshire County Council

I attended the Full Council meeting at the Guildhall on 14th May. Tanya Miles the interim Chief Executive was officially elected to take up the role permanently.

Shropshire Council Cabinet approved a public consultation on 6th May on the Shropshire Local Plan – Scoping Document. The consultation will run for 8 weeks until 15th July. It's purpose is to seek early views from all interested stakeholders on what the next Shropshire Local Plan should contain. For more information visit 'get involved' webpage at: <https://getinvolved.shropshire.gov.uk/consultations/shropshire-local-plan-scoping-consultation/>.

A query regarding Cornovii housing was raised at Full Council. Shropshire launched Cornovii in 2019. Their aim was to deliver 582 homes over 10 years backed by a £69 million council loan. The question asked was "have they delivered the 582 houses over the 10 years?" The answer is "no – the original target has not been achieved" A recent report from the Lib Dem controlled council says forecast delivery has dropped by 50 units, reflecting updated viability and scheme changes.

Shropshire Council remains in a poor financial position. They do have plans in place to reduce their reliance on Exceptional Financial Support (EFS).

Shropshire Council have invited interested parties to tender for the leisure centre contract. I attended a very enjoyable Motown evening and over £600 was raised for the leisure centre fundraising. At another fundraising event for the leisure centre, the Food and Ale trail on Saturday, there were around 112 participants, and I heard that it was a very enjoyable event.

The Road Warden Scheme is moving forward. A lot has been going on behind the scenes. I have had several meetings with Juan Hernandez who is heading up this scheme and is very keen to get parishes involved in taking care of their own areas. I know Neen Sollars have already been proactive doing most of these works for the past ten years, but this scheme will also allow minor small potholes to be fixed by volunteers under the direction of the lengths-man, or other fully qualified person.

There is training available for the lengths-man to oversee the volunteers. This training is free of charge and is funded by SCC. Juan Hernandez asked if the parishes were signed up to MOU (Memorandum of Understanding)? If you can let me know please. There will be more information coming out regarding this scheme and also training dates for anyone interested.

As always, I am available by email david.davies@shropshire.gov.uk

Kindest regards

David