

ANNUAL REPORT FOR YEAR APRIL 2017 TO MARCH 2018 from Cllr Madge Shingleton

Another busy changeable year. Elections on May produced little change in the political groups Conservatives remain as the Administration.

The continuation of changes to many policies from Central Government has required Shropshire Council to review many of their own policies these have included:-

The ECONOMY

always important, has taken on a higher profile with the possibility of the withdrawal of government grant to be replaced by councils retaining the Business Rates (Non Domestic Rate) Unfortunately the amount collected across the County would not match current Government grants to cover the Councils mandatory responsibilities, action is being taken to encourage larger businesses into the County and close the gap. We are fortunate to have many local businesses who are thriving and providing a wide range of jobs.

HIGHWAYS

Ringway contract has come to an end and the The Kier company has been appointed and has already started. To say they have a daunting task in front of them is an understatement as the condition of our hundreds of miles of roads many unclassified but equally important to enable access to work, schools and services, are as damaged as I can remember. Please tell your Parish Clarks or Unitary Councillors when you see faults of any kind. There is a new website ' Elgin ' which will give you upto date information about road closures and diversions. Shropshire Council Highways also gives you space to report road faults.

SCHOOLS

Shropshire Gateway Educational Trust with the four schools working together has helped to secure the education for our upto 16 year olds in our large rural area and facilitates many out of hours activities as well as providing transport in many ways.

Farlow and Kinlet Schools continue to be feeder schools for Lacon Childe but are not part of the Gateway Trust.

PUBLIC TRANSPORT

21 Diamond Route has continued to be unreliable and Worcestershire County Council who hold the contract for this route have not renewed Diamonds contract which will finish on April 15th. Unfortunately they did not put an effective alternative in place of the early morning and late afternoon/early evening times which has required Shropshire Council repeated efforts liaising with Worcester to resolve this shambles. The current mixture of R&B and Diamond will need monitoring over the next 2/3 months to see how effective it is for our areas needs. Timetables are available in the Library, Market Hall and Shops near the Bus Stop.

We still have the Bridgnorth Community Bus who come in to Cleobury on Saturday mornings and travel round the area back to Bridgnorth with a return journey lunch time. 01746 768539 to book a place.

HEALTH

There are major changes across all sections of the Health Service which hopefully should make systems more straight forward for patients and carers when you need help.

For the last four years wide discussion has taken place across Shropshire Telford and Powys with Doctors, Nurses, Patients Groups, Health Watch, Patients Groups Health Watch and Councillors from across the National Health Service, Government has given the Shropshire & Telford Acute Trust £312 million to enlarge and improve care in our Hospitals in Shrewsbury and Telford. The proposal is to upgrade the Emergency Care Accident Dept at either the Princess Royal in Telford or the Royal Shrewsbury where all Blue light Ambulances will go to. There will be an A&E/Urgent care centre remaining at both Hospitals. All planned operations and care will be developed at the alternative Hospital.

The Consultant Obstetric Unit and in patient Childrens Unit will go onto the same site as the Emergency Care and Accident Unit. Both Hospitals will have a Midwife Led Unit

Both Hospitals will continue to have an Outpatient Department

There now has to be a public Consultations which will hopefully start in May and will last for 12 weeks. During that time there will be many public meetings and opportunities to put forward your views on line or a paper copy. I urge you to take part in this Consultation it is for all our future health care.

We have seen one Nursing Home sadly close but a new one Cleobury Hills is being currently built in Cleobury Mortimer, there will be a wide range of jobs needed to run the Home and a recruiting session was held at Cleobury Country on April 12th which was very successful, if you missed it they will have contact details.

HOUSING

Cleobury has seen considerable housebuilding over the last few years yet there is still a shortage in the area especially to rent. All our Parishes through their Parish Plans recognise their local needs. Cleobury are compiling a Neighbourhood Plan which will be a blue print for the future development mainly in Cleobury Parish but also recognising they are a Hub for services for the wider area. This plan will be a blue print for Cleobury Mortimer Parish upto 2036, please take part.

We are fortunate to have a wide range of Clubs and Groups in the area of all subjects and interests often in our local Village Halls.

The Sports and Social club in Cleobury is a venue of many events and with the transfer of ownership of the Cleobury Park area to the Town Council is well placed to be used especially for all the sports groups over a wide age range.

CLEOBURY AREA YOUTH PARTNERSHIP

The Partnership has representatives from Scouts, Guides, St Mary Youth, South Shropshire Forum, Housing Associations, Police, Schools, Town Council, Youth Champions, Sports and Social Club and welcomes all who are interested in Youth provision.

We have had another successful and varied year with an Awards for All grant for £9,642 which Mark from St Mary Youth Project and Richard from South Shropshire Youth Forum used with the children for the Garden Project. The Current Bushes they planted outside the Library are looking very good this year.

Our thanks to a number of the surrounding Parishes who contribute to the Partnership and to Steve Todd who Audits our accounts and Sports and Social Club for allowing us to meet there, our next meeting is April 23rd 10.30a.

