

June 2023 Report

1. The Council has been awarded a further £4.2 million pounds for the Household support grant. With interest rates rising a lot of people haven't yet felt the impact until they are out of their current fixed rate mortgage. The difference could be hundreds of pounds a month and this could have a major effect on people's finances. Please make people aware of the fund which can be found on the Shropshire Council website as help is there for people struggling with their financial situation.

The Council continues to reach out to residents who maybe be suffering financial difficulties. This proactive approach since Oct2022 has included over 11,000 outbound calls. In total there have been over 36,000 contacts. The Council wants to assist and ensure that where grants are available they are drawn. The helpline is: 03456789012.

2. The Boundary Commission has released its proposals for the changes to our Unitary Council wards. The existing Ward would be split into two. Firstly Cleobury Mortimer town, plus Coreley, Milson and Neen Sollars PC but now also taking in Boraston and Nash. The other ward would be Hopton Wafers, Farlow, Wheathill, Stottesdon, Neen Savage, and KInlet. They are proposing to call this ward the Stottesdon ward. We are resigned to the splitting of the ward into two single wards however we feel the other ward should not be called Stottesdon. This would cause great confusion as a lot of the parishes don't look to Stottesdon and many officers and outside bodies may well send everything to the clerk at Stottesdon assuming they cover the whole ward. We are submitting that the ward should be called Cleobury Mortimer Rural. If you agree please submit the same.

3. We note there are vacancies on many Parish Councils and Cleobury Town Council has vacancies. We would urge members of the community to volunteer for their community. The role is not overly onerous but gives you the opportunity to make a difference in your community and shape how it moves forward.

4. The new Sewage Plant in Cleobury Mortimer on the river Rea is before the Council's planners. Although Severn Trent has made a presentation of its plans to the public on 30May23 there is an opportunity for everyone to comment on the Council's Planning Application site – ref 23/00908/MAW.

In 2022 (according to the Rivers Trust [Sewage Map | The Rivers Trust](#)) Severn Trent had permitted sewage overflows 38x, for a total of 387 hours, during heavy rains. The Rea is in 'bad ecological' condition and although sewage outflows are probably not the main cause they will be a contributory factor. Severn Trent currently do not monitor the condition of the water upstream ie before an overflow, or downstream ie after an outflow – so it isn't possible to know the contribution these outflows make to the health of the Rea. It should be noted that the overflow will have received some basic filtration treatment before release. We hope that the Planners ensure that there is sufficient capacity in the new treatment plant to considerably reduce the outflows (preferably to zero); that they require Severn Trent to monitor their 'contribution' to the health of the Rea before and after every outflow, and that they insist that Severn Trent install a filtration system that 'denatures bacteria' when there is a flow into the Rea – this 'denaturing' is the 'gold standard' of filtration.

5. The Place Plan team have in May23 started a 12weeks engagement with Town and Parish clerks. In order to access CIL monies and improve the local infrastructure it is essential that the infrastructure (or any other relevant project) is included on the Place Plan. This is a dynamic Plan and new projects can be added at any time – but there is now an opportunity to dust off 'possible' projects and get them on to the Place Plan.

6. Fair Game Manifesto: football isn't often discussed (or voted on) at Council meetings, however Lezley Picton (Leader) put forward a motion (which Simon seconded) to ask the Council to support the Fair Game Manifesto and write to the Minister of Sport to do likewise. Basically the Manifesto is a request for regulating (improving) the ownership and management of the game so that inappropriate (ie those that fail financial probity tests) owners can be excluded and that the football financial flow reaches into the lower leagues (including the National League North). In reality this is about ensuring that local communities have a say in the running of 'their' clubs. The value of football as a community asset and an asset when it comes to a community's general well-being was recognised. The motion was passed overwhelmingly by Cllrs of all political (and football) colours; and none.

Cllrs Gwilym Butler and Simon Harris
Cleobury Mortimer Division