Unitary Councillor's May Report

Dear Councillors

I had the pleasure of meeting the Air Ambulance crew at RAF Cosford recently. See above attachment. My husband David had arranged a surprise special (70th) birthday party for myself, also to celebrate our 50th wedding anniversary. David requested no presents or cards, but a donation to this very special life-saving charity. It receives no government funding. We were both very happy to hand over a sum of £300.

Cleobury Mortimer

I have chased up again with Simon D'Vali regarding the costings for the one-way system going past the Hurst. This has been ongoing now for some time. I am still waiting to hear from him.

I have reported the Eagle Lane problem with traffic going up there and getting stuck as it is such a narrow road, wide vehicles cannot get through. Signage is required off the Tenbury Road. Fixmystreet Ref 14207929.

The Leisure Centre fundraising is continuing. A procurement process is now underway with the aim to appoint the next operator in early 2027. This is an exciting opportunity for the next ten years. The new contract will include new facilities. A total of £38k has been raised, £15k has been paid out so far, so that still leaves £23k to be raised. There is a food and ale trail planned to raise more funds.

I have yet to be given a date for the meeting with Alex Wagner and Andy Wilde regarding the road ranger scheme. See Neen Sollars below. Update, Andy Wilde does not think it suitable to have an onsite meeting now, but to wait until the pilot scheme at Church Preen has been completed.

I am happy that Ben Williams is taking up the challenge for the speed watch and hopefully we now have enough volunteers for this to go ahead. Please accept my apologies as I will not be able to attend the speed watch meeting on 13th May.

Regarding the Manor house, I have had a very informative meeting with Mr Reid from Save the Manor House. I have written to Shropshire Council to see what more can be done.

Boraston

I have requested that Burford Parish Council keep Boraston Parish informed and up to date with any planning issues regarding the proposed 100 houses development, as this would very much affect Boraston Parish.

Coreley

Regarding the gritting etc. around the village, I have received the plans of the roads that need gritting from Rob – thank you. I have forwarded them on to Andy Keyland, so they can now be put on the gritting schedule. I hope it will not be needed till the end of the year!

Neen Sollars and Milson

I must apologise on behalf of the council, but I have been chasing up for months now trying to get Andy Wilde and Alex Wagner to commit to a date for a meeting at Neen Sollars. I would prefer an onsite meeting so that they can see for themselves the awful condition of the roads. Also, they can get the strong feeling and the enthusiasm of this parish council to take on the road ranger challenge. I have heard back from Andy Wilde that he did not think an onsite meeting would be of value. I have eventually heard back from Alex Wagner today, saying that he will be in touch as this is something he wants to get started as soon as possible.

Just had an update, apparently Church Preen Road Ranger scheme is up and running already, so that pilot scheme is more progressed, but Andy Wilde is supposed to be phoning me to see what he can do to help!

Shropshire County Council
Shortlisting for the permanent Chief Executive role has now been completed. The next stage is an assessment centre at the Guildhall followed by interviews on Tuesday 28th April.
Update:- Tanya Miles has been appointed as the new permanent Chief Executive, subject to ratification by Full Council on 14th May 2026.

Shropshire County Council's library service has been awarded £299,000 following a successful bid for Arts Council England Library Improvement funding. The funding will be used to support the refurbishment of 12 children's library spaces, plus the development of library spaces for young people withing six of the council's larger libraries. The improvement work will be ongoing until December 2027. Having worked in a library for 18 years, this is very good news for libraries.

A new crisis and resilience fund which will provide crucial support to residents experiencing financial hardship or sudden financial shocks. This important initiative is part of an ongoing commitment to supporting communities with the pressure of rising living costs. Replacing the previous household support fund, the new scheme is backed by central government through the department for work and pensions and will run from 1st April 2026 until 31st March 2029. Shropshire will receive £3.67 million each year to provide this support, alongside a further £758,558 in additional one-off funding to help rural households reliant on heating oil. The fund is designed to reach a wide range of low-income households, and support isn't limited to those receiving benefits. Anyone facing short term financial strain or an unexpected drop in income can apply. There's more here: **What help can I claim from the Council** Shropshire Council website.

I understand there is some confusion amongst the local parish councils regarding the devolution of responsibility from County Council to Town and Parish Councils. I have asked for more clarification for myself regarding how this will work, what it will cost and what authority over spending is etc? Each town or parish can decide the level of self-governing they wish to adopt. Small parishes might not have the will or resource to take on this opportunity fully, so can cherry pick what they can manage. Or merge with another parish to allow greater autonomy. The county council will provide ongoing support to ensure town and parish councils are able to take on and manage this change. This will be in the form of face to face and online training. This will be continually reviewed to ensure the support is available and at a level appropriate for each parish.

Clearly this will have an impact on the workload so there is an opportunity to engage additional resources which can be funded via the precept. County will give details of monies allocated to the contractors at each parish, also the cost of these services. This should help when putting forward a spending plan for the precept.

I can't believe it is twelve months already since I took up the Unitary Councillor role. I have had the pleasure of meeting parish and town councillors and residents.

I look forward to being at the market hall at the next farmers market.

Kindest regards
Pamela