

Leebotwood and Longnor Parish Council
Shropshire Councillor Report 11.5.26

Longnor

Drains

As mentioned the Council drainage team visited for several days mid Feb. It looks as though things have improved by Upper Farm but it's less clear whether the mid village drains are fixed. I've raised this with Highways of course, but would appreciate any photos you can offer showing the drains aren't working.

Potholes

The drains works by Upper Farm seem to have helped a lot, and have meant the main potholes there could be fixed. These seem to have been done quite well (with bitumen selaing strip round the edge), fingers crossed. However there remain some bad holes along the edges of the lane and I'm sending photos to Highways.

I've complained about the potholes mid village and have been told they're on the list to be fixed.

Leebotwood

VAS/Speed limit

I promised at our recent meeting with Stuart Anderson (many thanks to Rebecca for setting this up) to check with Highways whether they have any mobile VAS equipment they could install here. I will ask but to be honest I'm very doubtful.

At that meeting we also discussed speed limits briefly, obviously the sooner there's a VAS the sooner there will be data to pass to Joe/A49 backing our requests for lower limits.

Crossing

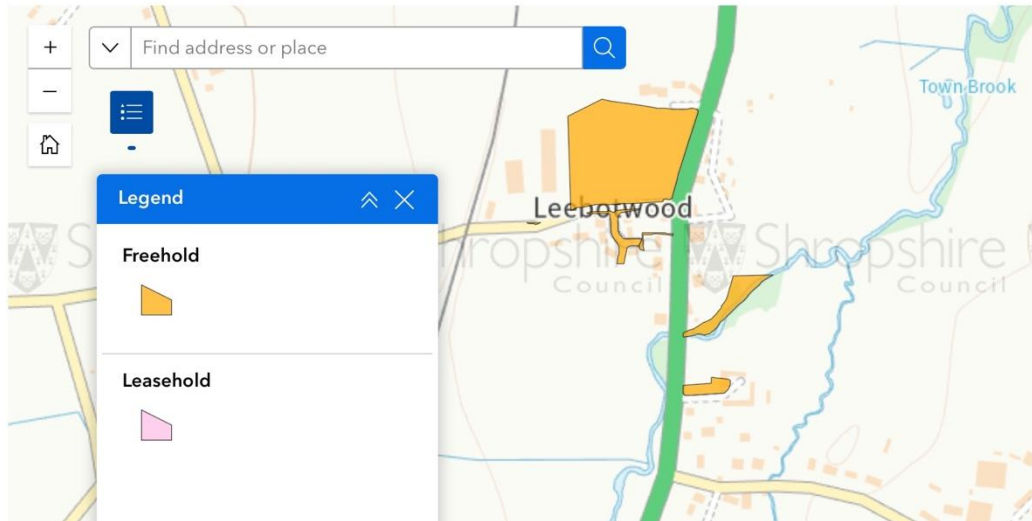
At the last Parish meet I fed back Joe's news that National Highways weren't able to fund the crossing, and his suggestion that we look to the Council. I have since raised that with the Leader of the Council who supported the need but because the Council continues to be in dire straits financially Heather agreed the best route would be through CIL, as we discussed. I asked officer advice on how to progress our request but Heather's advice was to wait to get help from a new officer Simon de Vali. So I'll ask his advice soon, along with following up the request from our meet with Stuart to secure the Council's help to maintain pressure on National Highways.

My new Scrutiny role

I'm pleased to say I've been asked to chair a new Scrutiny Committee for the Council. The job of the Scrutiny Committees, in case you don't know, is to review Council plans and policies and feed back comments – positive or negative. In particular they can set up 'Task and Finish' groups (T&F's) to focus on specific issues – for instance I've served on T&F's recently looking at the Gyrotory system, the future of Shirehall, and the Community Infrastructure Levy system here. All these resulted in reports and recommendations to Cabinet.

So, I've been asked to chair Finance and Improvement Scrutiny, and as well as looking at regular finance reports we'll want to play our part to help the Council achieve financial stability. We'll

pick relevant T&F topics to investigate - eg Income Development, Asset Management, Procurement – which could help our financial position. Suggestions welcome of course. As a starter for ten, here’s an excerpt from the Council’s asset map for Leebotwood: any info’ welcome!



(Shropshire Council Asset Map – Freehold Property)