WITHINGTON PARISH COUNCIL REPORT - MARCH 2021

THE RIVERSIDE VISIONING

By the time of this meeting a report will have been considered by Cabinet with reference to the vision for the one of Shrewsbury's prime development sites where we will be asked to agree that the plans go out to the public for consultation.

The Strategic Development Framework (SDF) sets out a framework for future development of a four-hectare site on the Smithfield Riverside.

The SDF document integrates the future development of the Riverside with work to redevelop the Pride Hill Centre, and considers the significant potential to create a cultural destination in this part of the town, unlock and improve open space, create a key green space, and better connect the area with other parts of Shrewsbury.

It proposes providing a high-quality public realm along the wider riverside walk and creating green links that provide enhanced access to The Quarry.

It suggests the creation of new parks, squares and a new Riverside bridge.

The Riverside site is a key component of the Shrewsbury Big Town Plan Investable Masterplan. Its development has been made possible by Shropshire Council's purchase of the Shrewsbury shopping centres in 2018.

It's an exciting project and I am happy to talk further about what is within the plan.

CENSUS SUPPORT

The 2021 Census is due to be completed on the 21st March. Shropshire Libraries are working in partnership with the Good Things Foundation to deliver local support for people needing help filling in the Census 2021 form in Shropshire.

Census 2021 support is available on the phone or by video call through Microsoft Teams from **Mondays to Fridays** between 9am and 5pm and on Saturdays between 10am and 1pm.

To access this support, people will need to fill in this Census 2021 support form.

Alternatively, people can email $\underline{\text{censussupport@shropshire.gov.uk}}$ or contact Shropshire Libraries Support Centres directly on: Shrewsbury Library - 01743 255308

LITTER PICKING

If, like me, you have been appalled by the amount of litter on our verges then there is some good news. Litter is be picked alongside several Shrewsbury roads during March 2021 in a month-long effort to clear waste and rubbish from many of the county's major roads.

Work will be carried out by Shropshire Council and its service provider Kier, starting on Monday 8 March and ending on 31 March. Some will be carried out during the day, and some will be done overnight.

It's being undertaken due to the substantial amount of litter alongside these important stretches of road.

Work will be taking place as follows, with additional work also set to be announced.

- 8 March for four nights A5112/A5 (Dobbies Island) to A458/A5 Welshpool Road
- 9 March for two days A49/A5 to A49/A53
- 15 March for four nights A5/A49 (Preston Island) to A5112/A5 (Dobbies Island)
- 16 March for two days A458/A5 Welshpool Road to Felton Butler roundabout A5
- 22 March for four nights A5/B4394 to A49/A5 (Preston Island)
- 23 March for two days A49 roadside litter pick from Ludlow to Church Stretton, from Sheet Road/Lower Galdeford

• 30 March for two days – B4386 from Yockleton/Ford Heath junction, to junction with A5, and A5 from Edgebold to Woodcote.

Where work is taking place on dual carriageways, lane closures or diversion may be needed.

There will also be work undertaken on B Roads and I am awaiting further details. I am aware that we do have community litter picks (we shouldn't need them but......) I am working with the Street Scene teams to look at more regular collections.

PARISH COUNCIL, SHROPSHIRE COUNCIL AND POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER ELECTIONS

It has now been confirmed that the elections planned for Thursday 6th May will go ahead. It has also been confirmed that canvassing (door knocking) can take place from 8th March. There are some other alterations to the rules but for Parish Council elections there are no changes. i.e. you will still require 2 residents to propose and second your nomination form.

NORTH WEST RELIEF ROAD PLANNING APPLICATION

The planning application for the Shrewsbury North West Relief Road (NWRR) has now been submitted and is available to view and comment upon on the Council's Planning Portal.

If approved, the NWRR will provide a new, single carriageway road linking the northern and western parts of Shrewsbury, with new bridges over the River Severn and its flood plain and the Shrewsbury-Chester railway line.

The NWRR would connect the A5 at Welshpool Road roundabout west of Shrewsbury to the Ellesmere Road roundabout to the town's north.

The planning application does not include a water management scheme as part of the bridge over the River Severn and is for the road only.

The application states that the NWRR will:

- Cut journey times by up to 14 minutes for drivers travelling through or across Shrewsbury.
- Compared with the current southern A5 route around the outskirts of Shrewsbury, the NWRR would provide a direct, high speed link across the north of the town.
- The road would also reduce traffic in Shrewsbury town centre, helping to improve air quality and to encourage more people to walk or cycle, and further support the town's wider regeneration.
- Reduce traffic at peak-time bottlenecks on the A5 such as Dobbie's Island and on the B4397, a well-known 'rabbit run' route that affects communities including Baschurch, Bomere Heath, Montford, Ruyton-XI-Towns and Walford Heath.
- Boost the county's businesses and economy through reduced journey times and improved road links.
- Create a new circular walk by joining walking routes together; and create an additional 7km of public rights of way, giving more access to green space.

There are over 600 documents to view on the planning portal, I am told there will be a quick guide to "what is included where" available shortly.

The cost of constructing the NWRR is estimated to be £87.1m. In March 2019 the Department for Transport awarded £54m towards the construction of the road, and the Marches LEP have awarded £4.2m (for the section formerly known as the Oxon Link Road); and the council will provide the balance of the cost through developer and other contributions.

AGRICULTURE PARTNERSHIP

A group set up to work with the agricultural community to improve safety on Shropshire's roads is making good progress in its work to improve education, guidance and training for all partners and agencies.

The working group consists of Shropshire Council, the National Farmers Union, West Mercia Police and the Police and Crime Commissioner.

It was set up last year to assist in reducing the concerns and complaints received by the council from residents and business about agricultural vehicles on the county's roads. But, its aim is to provide support and guidance to those working in the agricultural sector and to ensure all agencies can work collectively to increase the skills and knowledge of staff to support the sector and address the concerns raised by residents.

The working group will be providing joint training for council and police staff on practical matters such as the size and weight of agricultural vehicles on rural roads, mud on the road, and other general safety matters.

The NFU, Shropshire Council, West Mercia Police and the PCC will be developing guidance and campaigns and deliver briefings to raise awareness for the agricultural community but also for the wider general public, plus joint guidance on issues such as use of contractors.

The NFU will be organising events and briefings for farmers and those involved in wider agricultural activities, and West Mercia Police and Shropshire Council's highways staff will be there to learn and provide an insight from a highways point of view on issues that residents raise with the council.

Whilst I am not expecting an overnight change to the problems, we experience at least all the relevant authorities are involved and taking part. The more sharing of knowledge the better.

LOCAL PLAN UPDATE

There is a report going before Cabinet on Thursday 11th March to agree an update to the Council's Local Development Scheme, i.e. the timetable for preparation of the Local Plan Review. The proposed change to the programme is a direct result of the extension to the Pre-Submission (Regulation 19) consultation into the Local Plan, which took account of the additional 'lockdown' restrictions which came into force on 5th January 2021. The proposed timetable can be found below.

Local Plan stage	Current LDS timeframe	Proposed LDS timeframe
Cabinet to consider pre-submission version of Local	December 2020	December 2020
Plan for six week consultation (regulation 19 stage)		
Consultation on pre-submission Local Plan, subject to	December 2020 – early	December 2020 – late
Cabinet approval (regulation 19 stage)	February 2021	February 2021
Full Council to consider the submission of Local Plan to	March 2021	July 2021
Secretary of State (regulation 22 stage)		
Submission of Local Plan to Secretary of State, subject	April 2021	July 2021
to Council approval (regulation 22 stage)		
Independent examination by Planning Inspectorate	April 2021 – March	July 2021 – May 2022*
(regulation 24 stage)	2022	
Expected inspector's report	March 2022	May 2022*
Full Council to agree adoption of the plan	May 2022	July 2022*

^{*}Estimated timeframe. Precise timeframe subject to Planning Inspectorate (PINS)

LOCAL MATTERS

Highways

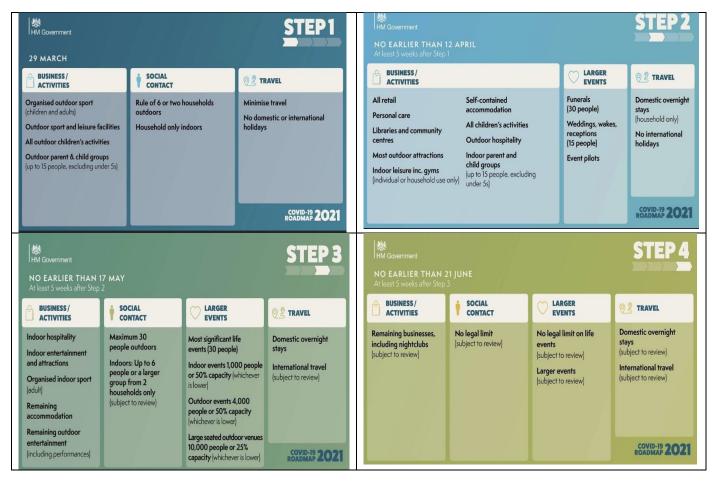
As you will be aware the frustration with the state of our roads has reached a critical point. I know we are no different to many of the other councils across England, but we can't go on like this. So, you may have noticed in the press that the Conservative Group have announced a promise of a £40m investment pot over four years in our roads, pavements and walkways, I'm hoping I can include Rights of Way in this too. We will also continue to lobby national government for increased funding.

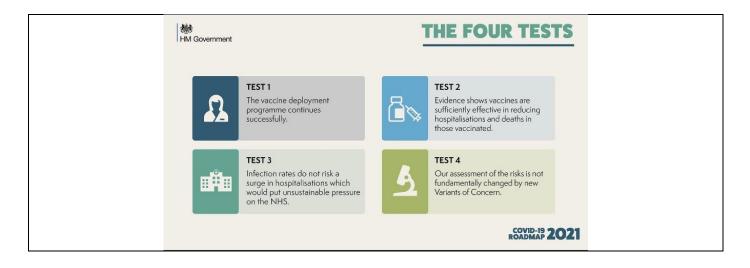
The Rea Poultry Application

The application is no longer on the planning register.

COVID - UPDATE

The latest Road Map out of Lockdown has now been released. I have included the rules in picture form as it is easier to understand but please be mindful that Steps 1 to 4 will only go ahead if the tests are met.





In the meantime, stay safe,

Lezley Picton

Shropshire Councillor for the Tern Division,