

Report 12 to Whixall Parish Council by Shropshire Councillors Peter Broomhall + Edward Towers – February 2023

Dear All – Please find below our twelfth written report as your County Councillors:

We have not had another Full Shropshire Council meeting since Thursday 15th December 2022 so nothing to report this month. The next one is set for Thursday 2nd March.

Shropshire Climate and Carbon Advisory Board:

There have been no further meetings of this Board took place on 20th October, so our notes in October's report are the current state of play in these matters. ET is waiting for the date to be set for the next meeting.

Shropshire Local 'Development' Plan Member Group:

ET attends these meetings of this revived Cross-Party group held via Teams. The public consultation into the draft Ironbridge Gorge World Heritage Site SPD has begun on Monday 9th January and **will run until 20th February 2023**. A message about this has been circulated to the Parish and Town Councils.

The website is now live and is [Ironbridge Gorge World Heritage Site - Ironbridge Gorge WHS](#)

The public drop in event will be at Buildwas Village Hall on Monday 13th February between 5-8pm.

The **other matters relating to the emerging SAMDEV 2025-2035 Plan for Shropshire** are still at Stage 1 of the process with the Planning Inspectorate, specifically related to nine questions that the Inspector has asked our Planning Officers about related to 'how SC engages with its neighbours'. When this Stage 1 of the Review by the Inspectorate has been completed satisfactorily in their opinion will Stage 2 of the Review that looks into the recommended Site Allocations for development across the County be started..(this is of more direct interest locally to ourselves!). As we said last month it is expected that this part of the review will take up a good proportion of 2023.

Shropshire Council Briefing/'Drop In' Sessions:

Member drop-in session - Cost of Living on 5th January. This was a Teams drop-in session led by Rachel Robinson SC's Director of Public Health Shropshire Health and Wellbeing. It was for all members about the cost of living in Shropshire and gave a brief overview of the range of services on offer from partners and the council and to answer any questions. This session built on information provided in a briefing note that we can send you upon request should you like to see this. Further updates and sessions are being planned for the coming weeks.

Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA) Briefing on 31st January led by Rachel Robinson (SC Director of Public Health). This presentation is intended to launch a series of regular such briefings to report to Councillors about Shropshire's **Health and Wellbeing** challenges. It has been recognised that Shropshire residents are living longer but not necessarily having healthier lives as inequalities persist and so this is a plan to remove them. Local authorities now have a legal statutory duty to undertake a **Joint Strategic Needs Assessment** through the newly formed **Health and Well Being Boards**.

To do this staff are now starting to identify health and wellbeing needs in our local populations so that strategic priorities can be arrived at that will then in turn inform commissioning of services to meet these needs. These priorities then inform the **Health and Wellbeing strategy** and **Integrated Care Strategy** and should support **local partners/communities priorities**. So, a huge aggregated place-based data collection process/roll out is underway that reaches groups as small as around 1500 people all over Shropshire (based upon the 18 Place Plan areas) to help inform health-related decision making. It will be not only be quantitative (have hard data) but have qualitative information too from community engagement. It will be presented as thematic interactive web-based dash boards on computer systems that everyone who needs this information can engage with.

Previously these JSNA priorities were based around themes such as 'starting well', 'living well' and 'ageing well', but now they will now be Place based providing information to be shared, collectively understood, reflecting the unique needs of people in a given location and have an asset-based approach that seeks to highlight the strengths, capacity and knowledge of all those involved. The intention is that the JSNA should be the single source of evidence for place based activity. The vision is 'for Shropshire people to be the healthiest and most fulfilled in England'!....a high and challenging bar to reach...so watch this space!!

Cross Party Group to help advise on Draft Submissions to the Boundary Commission:

There have been no further meetings of this group, so our notes in November's report are the current state of play in these matters.

River Water Quality Task and Finish Group:

The next (2nd) meeting of this new group that PB and ET have been invited to attend was set to be on 8th February 2023. However, our Committee Officer has just told us that he is now leaving Shropshire Council in February so with the Chair's agreement this Task and Finish Group is being suspended until such time that another officer is in post to continue this work.

Public Transport Working Group:

We reported upon the latest meeting of this group (Thursday 27th November) for this Cross-Party Group (of which ET is part) so things are as they were reported to you last month. The next meeting for this group will be on Thursday 2nd February.

Public Transport Working Group:

The latest meeting of this group took place on 2nd February. ET will give a brief resume of this very helpful meeting next month when the single-sided Newsletter produced from this meeting has been sent out.

Shropshire Council Committees:

The **January Northern Planning Committee took place in Shirehall on 10/01/22 for ET.**

The applications that came before the committee were:

- **Proposed Residential Development Land to The South of Welshpool Road, Bicton Heath, Shrewsbury, Shropshire** – a mixed residential development of 106 dwellings and associated public open space, internal highways, car parking, garages and landscaping with vehicular access from Gains Park Way.
- **6 Land Adjacent to Melville House, Station Road, Baschurch, Shropshire** - Erection of 48 Dwellings Across 3 Phases with Associated Access Roads, Parking and Landscaping, including Provision of Land for Train Station Car Park.
- **34 Bynner Street, Shrewsbury, Shropshire SY3 7NZ** - Erection of rear extension and remodelling of existing detached house, to provide fully an accessible house for a disabled applicant

Site visits were made in the morning for the first two applications. In the afternoon all were approved following some very keen discussion, the second of which was against the Planning Officers recommendation because justifiable planning reasons were given.

In addition, Appeals and Appeal Decisions were looked at.

The date of the next Planning Committee was to have been on Tuesday 7th February 2023 at Shirehall, but this has been cancelled, so the next one will now be in March.

Standards Sub Committee in Shirehall met again on 12th January for ET when a panel was selected from the Standards Committee to look at another specific allegation and adjudicate on it.

Ambulance Task and Finish Group

ET is part of this Group as the representative of the Independent Grouping and there is nothing to add to that reported in the December report this month.

Shropshire Council Training/Development Sessions:

There have been none arranged since our December report.

Regarding Whixall Parish, our activity this last month has largely been trying to progress the matters mentioned in our January report. Matters are much as they were then, so nothing to report here. The exception has been to convene a meeting on Friday 3rd February for the Chairman (Cllr Ian Mercer) and Vice Chairman (Cllr Bob Harris) of Whixall Parish Council with the Chairman of Wem Rural Parish Council (Cllr Huw Edwards) with Chris Taylor, Shropshire Council's Broadband Manager. This was to discuss all things digital about 5G and Broadband in both Wem Rural and Whixall Parishes. We know that this is a topic that regularly causes much discussion and concern in these two parishes and so it was helpful to have Chris come and speak to us about where everything is as regards 'roll out' of this technology in our part of North Shropshire, as well as answer the questions that we all have. As it happens there are two items on this Wednesday's Parish Council meeting that connect with last Friday's discussions, namely:

- an update on the Parish Connectivity survey
- Gigabit Broadband Voucher Scheme

so we'll leave further reporting back until then.

Regarding other matters that concern that we are either involved in:

Wem Area Climate Action Forum – The group had their first meeting of 2023 on Wednesday 18th January at 61 New Street, Wem. Some agenda items discussed were:

- the progress being made with the application for Charity Status and Trustees matters related for this.
- Issues connected with the Built Environment in town (such as the Morgan Library and The White Horse)
- Plans for holding a 1st ever 'Green Day' in Wem in the summer (July date being proposed)
- Plans for developing the links begun with Thomas Adams School
- Maintenance planning for wild flower meadows/beds being created around town
- hearing of the progress/successes in reopening footpaths in/around Wem by our Wem Parish Paths Partnership (or P3) Group

The next meeting is on Wednesday 15th February at 7.00pm at 61 New Street, (Malcolm Adkins' home) , venue provisionally to be Wem Conservative Club....but get in touch if you'd like to come and we'll confirm this with you.

Discussion matters regarding the pilot project between Shropshire Council and Wem Economic Forum/Town Council

At our 14th December 2022 meeting two matters that were mentioned to bring to your attention were:

Investment Plans - We had a presentation on how these could work for Wem by a Senior Officer for Place Shaping in Economic Growth at SC. This was followed by a discussion that showed there was a need to identify some key themes for Wem that could be built on as a part of a project for the Shared Prosperity Fund Application as well as investment planning around improving Wem's connectivity, sustainability and image.

- An application has now been submitted to the UK Prosperity Fund so that consultations can take place with the community about the future of Wem regarding making it a better place to LIVE, WORK and VISIT. More specifically it is so that a feasibility study can be undertaken that looks at how to help drive the business side of our projects on the theme of Work in Wem....to help make it easier, relocate businesses here and, also help sustain and grow businesses. Engaging the use of consultants to undertake research amongst the business and wider community was considered important as well as finding the contact details of companies who had helped Oswestry and Shrewsbury move forward in this way. Officers are now helping us find these details.
- **A Business Networking Event is being planned for 28th February at Soulton Hall** organised by Shropshire Council Officers. It will be an opportunity to launch the Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) to those present as well as for companies to discuss funding and give opportunity for attendees to put forward their ideas for the town. Promotional material is being designed and the Wem Town Council and nearby Rural Parish Councils are to be asked to help with this event. Established and newer local business speakers are now being invited to come and share their experiences/ideas for improving the local economy.

To help make final preparations for this our next meeting for this joint WEF/WTC/SC group was to have been on Wed 8th February 2023, but this is now being re-arranged because of conflicting commitments for the officers involved. A new date is being arranged.

The Wemian – This is still in abeyance whilst a new Editor and team members are sought to help ensure this long running and valued local publication is able to continue to flourish, adapt and serve our community! If you know of suitable volunteers do let us/Wem Mayor (Geoff Soul) know.

We think that's all our news for this month....but as always if you need more information about or wish to draw something to our attention, then do say.

Kindest regards,

Peter Broomhall and Edward Towers

Shropshire County Councillors for the Wem, Wem Rural & Whixall Division

Date: 6th February 2023