

Report from Cllr Lezley Picton - Withington Parish Council Report

September 2022

Some good news first. We have been allocated £1M to enable us to install more public EV charging points. This money will be spent right across the county.

The proposal for the new Health Hub in Shrewsbury is taking up a significant amount of time for both officers and members. I think that the reasons why it is needed are becoming clearer to people but there is still a lot of angst over the location. Angst that I do not disagree with.

Now we have a new Prime Minister and a new DHLUC Minister (Simon Clarke) we will start making our points to the new team. I am hopeful that the Prime Minister will follow up her comments regarding social care payments and give the money to Local Government and not the NHS. Just a reminder that we spend £4 out of every £5 on Social Care.

Hopefully all of you that applied for a purple top bin in the first wave have received them. Please make sure you put your house name/number clearly on the front. A number of have gone walkabouts..... If you haven't ordered a bin and would like one you can request it by visiting <https://www.shropshire.gov.uk/recycling-and-rubbish/order-a-bin-or-container/order-your-free-bin-for-recycling-plastic-cans-and-glass/>

Cabinet members are spending a lot of time seeking ways to balance this year's budget. Without inflationary pressures we would under budget but at present we are forecasting a budget deficit which will have to added to the savings we are required to make ahead of next year. The demand for social care continues to increase.

We are not the only ones to be feeling inflationary pressures and our businesses are receiving unbelievable quotes for their fuel, in most cases a 500% increase on their current costs. Totally unsustainable. We are told that an announcement will be made in the next couple of days re a energy cost freeze – I certainly hope so.

Covid boosters will be made available to those over 50 and/or in the special category groups as from Monday 12th September. I urge you to get your booster as soon as possible. Our nearest centre will be same as before, the church on Mount Pleasant Road.

Kind regards,

Lezley Picton

Shropshire Councillor for the Tern Division

Village Green Committee Report – 7th September 2022.

1. An application has been made to Shropshire Council for:
 - A feathered oak tree to replace the Jubilee oak which died.
 - Four bundles of 20 hedgerow saplings to screen the 22 m of fence behind the wet area.
2. The green was used for parking for a birthday party and a donation was given in appreciation.
3. A copy of the original quote for tarmacking the Village green path has been sent to Phil Heath.
4. The current price for a second-hand mower is being monitored.
5. The football posts are being used appropriately and much appreciated.