

REPORT TO SHAWBURY DIVISION ANNUAL PARISH MEETINGS 2023

I will start this report with the latest details of the Electoral Review of Shropshire – The Local Government Boundary Commission for England published their Draft Recommendations on 2 May 2023 and will consult on the draft recommendations for a 10-week period to 10 July 2023. We hoped the Commissioners would accept our proposals for 75 seats since to hold us to the 2009 figure of 74 divisions with around 3,500 residents could entail extensive shifting in boundaries and potential disruption of communities of interest (on which the Commission places heavy emphasis). We encourage everyone to use this opportunity to comment on these proposed divisions as the more public views the Commission hear, the more informed their decisions will be in making their final recommendations on 3 October 2023. In the Shawbury Division they received very strong evidence from Clive Parish Council, supported by Councillor L. Bardsley, detailing the links this community shares with the neighbouring parish of Grinshill. Grinshill Parish Council also expressed their desire to remain in a rural division, and not be placed in a division with market towns. In their Draft recommendation they have adopted this proposal and retained the existing Shawbury division with the exception of Hadnall parish, which is placed into Tern division as proposed by the resident's scheme. This would leave the Shawbury Division with a -9% variation below the anticipated 2028 average number of electors per councillor of 3594.

EDUCATION

Good News, the recent data on the DfE Attendance Dashboard has been updated and it shows the Shropshire is above the National average for primary and secondary schools, primary hit 94%

HAF – Holiday and food programme. Once again Shropshire Council working with some excellent providers put on a whole range of activities across 57 locations across the county for hundreds of our children and young people.

Children's Social Care & Safeguarding. Caer Bryn, Whittington our new residential home officially opened and two more of our residential homes received full OFSTED inspections and both received Outstanding judgments. The STEPPINGSTONES project is on track and with the opening of 3 therapeutic hubs we strengthen the early intervention and support needed

Childcare information. The recent Council budget saw the announcement of a significant childcare offer for working parents. We have already begun talking to our EARLY YEARS providers about the opportunities and challenges which this will bring. Over 100 providers attended our recent network meetings. We await more detail on the offers in the weeks ahead including the all-important news on funding and what will be available to support our childcare providers.

Bikeability training / 20mph outside school's project. We are very nearly there the programme of works will soon start and we will be front and centre and rolling out lots of comms on what we have done. ALL children will be offered walk, cycle or scoot training in Shropshire, EVERY school is assessed, and we will do what we need to ensure safety outside schools continuing from what we have already started. A website will be launched, and all questions and queries can go through a centralised point of contact.

Adult Social Care/Public Health

It's been a busy period reviewing commissioning arrangements with the residential care homes and their representatives Shropshire Partners in Care, as well as domiciliary care providers. We want to increase the number of residents receiving care at home as generally they do much better in their own setting than in residential care. Our offer of further support to domiciliary care providers has seen an increase in providers which is really good news. We're also supporting the 'virtual ward' system using technology to enable those with complex needs to live either at home or in a residential setting rather than hospital.

Letters have started going out to Over-75s inviting them for another Covid booster. Please encourage your more elderly friends and relatives to attend as Covid is still lurking

CLIMATE CHANGE

Biochar – The Environmental team are developing an exciting business case to establish a facility for the manufacture of biochar from wood waste. The process would both capture and store carbon (which would otherwise be released from decomposition) and generate financial savings and returns from a range of products and energy.

Pyrolysis (incomplete burning) of organic matter produces both usable energy (from oils and gasses) and a long-term carbon store in the form of high value biochar.

The Council are proposing installation of a medium-sized pyrolysis unit costing @ £1.1m which will:

- 1 Provide an estimated 400 MWh pa of renewable energy to local businesses.
 - 2 Process 3000 tonnes of green waste per annum which currently costs a gate fee of £35 per tonne (£105K).
 - 3 Sequester a minimum of 602 tonnes of Carbon Dioxide per year. For comparison, heating of Shropshire Council's buildings in 2021 emitted an estimated 1,552 tCO₂.
 - 4 Allow trade in Carbon Credits. Each tCO₂ credit is worth around £150 and can be sold via companies like Puro.Earth who sell biochar credits to Microsoft.
- The system is modular so the generation figures above could triple at the site.
 - Flue scrubbing equipment ensures emissions are way below regulatory levels.
 - The system could be operational and providing electricity and biochar by the end of 2023.

Transport

Public Transport remains a high priority. We will be lobbying government in order to attract funding, but in the meantime the Public Transport Team will be developing the first phase of Demand Response Transport (DRT).

Autumn 2022 we submitted a Transport bid as part of the Levelling Up Fund: Round Two. This was using two elements from our Shropshire Bus Service Improvement Plan (BSIP) focusing on Shrewsbury Connect and Rural Connect. Unfortunately, in January 2023 we were informed that Shropshire's transport bid was unsuccessful. Whilst disappointed this has not derailed us from moving forward with several plans within each project and we are continuing conversations with colleagues in the Department for Transport and Shropshire's Members of Parliament

Shropshire Council has extended its financial support for the 64 Market Drayton to Shrewsbury Service from 1 April 2023 that Arriva wanted to amend due to a fall in the number of fare-paying passengers.

Voters ID

This doesn't affect us at present as we have no elections, but it is important that all our communities are aware of the need to produce voter ID in local/general elections.

Simon Jones

Shropshire Council Councillor
Representing the Shawbury Division