

## **Councillor's Monthly Report June 2021**

The leadership of Shropshire Council has now been established with the election of Lezley Picton as the first woman Leader of the Council – Lezley represents the Tern Division for the Conservative Party. Lezley has formed her Cabinet; with Steve Charmley as her Deputy - and he also has responsibility for Highways.

Huge congratulations are due to Cllr Gwilym Butler who has been appointed to the Cabinet with responsibility for Resources – which among other duties includes the Council's finances. The south of Shropshire is further represented in the Cabinet through appointments to the Communities and Child Support portfolios. Moreover Richard Marshall, who represents Worfield (ie south Shropshire) is the Highways deputy – which hopefully will assist as we look for support for improvement to our rural roads. Richard has a transport business, so will be acutely aware of the challenges.

There does seem to be a determination to address the poor state of the roads; while this is no comfort, I understand that Shropshire's roads are no worse than those managed by other Local Authorities. South Shropshire's roads are a particular challenge as 2/3rds of the County's minor roads can be found in our locality. The relevance of this is that nearly 13% of B and C roads are considered to be in a poor condition while a whopping 21% of the ungraded roads are regarded as poor. Clearly there is much work to do to get this right.

I have been asked by 2 Parishes how much the Council and its insurers has had to pay out for claims to damaged cars as the result of the poor state of the roads. I hope to circulate these figures to the Parish Clerks next week; I have asked for a 5year trend. In the meantime I have attached the Council's process for making claims – and the explanation as to why claims may not be successful.

For the record Shropshire is in the early stages of its next strategic Transport Plan – and it is clear that this will range from public transport, decarbonisation, the health benefits of walking / cycling as well as the future of the road network.

Finally on roads – if you have ever wondered what those white lines around potholes actually mean. Well that shows that the Council has recorded them as needing attention. Personally I'd like to see a date as to when the attention will be given written next to the pothole! For the record the Council inspects the busier roads monthly, then every 2 months, Quarterly, or 6monthly – but at least once a year

The Council is determined to digitalise as many as of its services as possible eg access to the blue badges for parking. This will not be easy if you don't have access to the internet – but if you know someone that does then they can request your blue badge for you and failing that the libraries are there to assist.

Simon Harris  
Councillor Cleobury Mortimer Division