

Monthly Report May 2023

1. Local elections are taking place around the country but these do not effect Shropshire until 2025. This will be the first time that voters will have to provide photo ID. This can be in the form of a UK passport or Driving licence, a Blue Badge or certified over 60 Bus Pass. If you do not have any of these you can apply for a voter registration certificate via the Council web site, Shropshire Local or help at your local library. You can also apply for a postal vote. Our next elections are the Police and Crime commissioner next spring and / or a general election which will be sometime before the end of 2024. However – IMPORTANT - should you wish to vote on the Cleobury Mortimer Town Neighbourhood plan later this year and live in the ward, you will have to have voter ID. So if you need it don't delay and apply as soon as possible .
2. The date has been set for the resurfacing of the A4117 from the end of Cleobury to the county border. This will take place between the 2nd October and the 3rd November with daytime closures from 930 am to 430pm. We understand this will be disruptive but I am sure you will agree it is well over due and vital that the road gets repaired once and for all. The official diversion is legally set out as like for like roads. Businesses will remain open and emergency vehicles will be allowed access. Hopefully it will be completed in a much shorter time subject to weather conditions and will be done as well as the High Street project last year .
3. We can also report Langlands road in Cleobury leading towards the primary School will be resurfaced between 15-19th May with road closures between 9.30am and 14.45 pm
4. We were hoping for the first outcome of the boundary review to be issued on the 25th April but this has been delayed and expected in early May, watch this space.
5. The allocation for primary school places has recently been announced. Everyone within our ward got their preferred allocation. Kinlet is now full, but it is apparent there is vacancies at Farlow, Stottesdon and Cleobury .
6. The Youth Partnership has been wound up. We would like to thank Madge Shineton for all her hard work for the young people of Cleobury Mortimer and the surrounding villages. The Partnership coordinated youth groups and helped them to attract funding. The balance in its account has been distributed to the Scouts, the Hub and the Sports&Social Club.
7. Covid still remains an issue, it has not just gone away. We have been advised by the Cabinet Member responsible for Health that the NHS will be rolling out a booster vaccine for the over 75s which should also include other vulnerable people – please watch this space and help the NHS protect our elderly.
8. Shropshire Council has now engaged PWC, to advise on the changes required to ensure that the Council meets to cost reduction target for the coming financial year. Work has started and we hope (expect) these targets to be met through organisational efficiencies rather than a reduction in public services.

9. We will be backing a motion at full Council that is designed at reducing light pollution. The intention is to ensure that the levels of light pollution that any development creates is minimised, and this will be achieved by requiring Council Planning officials to insist that light reduction measures are included in a developments Planning Application.

Gwilym Butler and Simon Harris
Councillors Cleobury Mortimer Division