

Annual Report Local April 2024

Healthy People : Healthy Economy : Healthy Environment : Healthy Organisation

1.Roads

During the year we have had a huge investment into our main route the A4117 with resurfacing done to the County boundary along with work on Hopton Bank. Agreement has also been given to schedule in a scheme of speed reduction over the Clee Hill common which we are awaiting a commencement date.

The unclassified lanes are a serious issue within our Division with the thousands of miles we have across the county and no central government funding to date for their repair, reconstruction, or to resurface. We have already got some lanes in the Capital Programme for the financial year 2024/25. These are in the Parishes of Stottesdon, Hopton Wafers and Neen savage. We constantly lobby Shropshire Council and our MPs for further funding for the unclassified lanes. This is a major challenge in the current financial climate that the Council faces.

2. Neighbourhood Plan

In late March we are pleased to report that the Neighbourhood Plan for Cleobury Mortimer has been adopted by Shropshire Council. The Plan will now form part of the Local Plan which is currently with National inspectors and will hopefully become the adopted Local Plan later this year. Once adopted all planning applications will have to concur with the Plan. The adoption of the Neighbourhood Plan will mean that Cleobury will retain more of the CIL money to use as it wishes ie without Shropshire Council needing to approve.

3. Flooding

We have experienced the wettest winter on record in living memory which has created flooding issues to homes reported in Kinlet, Cleobury Mortimer, Milson and Neen Sollars, and Hopton Wafers. Property owners who were affected were able to apply for government led grants issued by the Council. The Council has a flood officer who can be contacted regarding flooding who is John.Bellis@shropshire.gov.uk. Water running off agricultural land is becoming a serious threat to the erosion of our roads especially the rural lanes. We urge the landowners to ensure the drainage from their land is routed via cleared ditches and drains into an appropriate tributary or drainage system - and not onto the Highway. Help may be available from the local Councils who run a Lengthsman scheme; where joint funding from local precept is matched by Shropshire Council to undertake local work - where the needs are identified for improvements on Council owned land.

4. Financial Challenges

Local Councils nationally are under pressure with finances due to the huge increase in demand for Children and Adult Social care. Shropshire is not alone and changes in the ways existing services are delivered will be looked at for alternative forms of funding or if they are still viable or needed in the community. In our area this will open the debate to the future funding for the Library at Cleobury Country, Leisure Centre, Car parks and Street Scene to name a few. We will be working with Shropshire Council and Local Town and Parish Councils to address - and debate the future of any services that affect our area.

5.Sewage Pollution

Our rivers are in poor condition as the result of partially treated sewage releases, agricultural run off and run off from the highways - and this includes the Rhea. The number of releases is monitored and

we have been advised that the Rivers Trust website will soon be updated to cover the releases in 2023 [Sewage Map | The Rivers Trust](#) . A new Sewage Plant is planned for Cleobury, which will hopefully improve capacity (less releases) and install more up to date treatment (cleaner grey water entering the river) – however, the Council’s Planning Dept is unable to require STW to monitor and report the daily quality / condition of the run off.

6.Litter

We would like to thank the groups and individuals that regularly collect the litter that continues to be strewn throughout our towns and villages and along our roads and lanes. Although the Council will organise a litter pick the reality is that without the voluntary sector taking the initiative the litter will just continue to increase.

7.Cleobury Mortimer Medical Centre

This year the Cleobury Mortimer medical centre has re launched its Patients’ Voice. This is very good news for all of us that use the Centre – as it gives us a chance to feedback any issues, and it gives the Centre the opportunity to ask the wider Community to assist as it takes care of our health needs. The Centre is increasing the services it offers eg including a physio; mental health and dietary advice. Please contact Kim at kim.murrells@nhs.net if you wish to get involved.

8.Policing

The (Highley & Cleobury) area has a new (but very experienced) Safer Neighbourhood Officer and we continue to encourage him to visit the Town and Parish Councils over the coming year. Crime stats are available at [Cleobury and Highley | Police.uk \(www.police.uk\)](#) – though it is acknowledged that this info does not tell the whole story.

Cllrs Gwilym Butler and Simon Harris
Cleobury Mortimer Division