

Councillors Report October 2024

Healthy People : Healthy Economy : Healthy Environment : Healthy Organisation

1.Suicide Help

We have recently attended briefings on the prevention of suicide. Help is available for people that suffer from suicidal thoughts. These are important contacts and we felt that Parish and Town Councils may wish to make them more widely known:

- **Samaritans** – For immediate emotional support 24/7 and 365 days of the year call or text Samaritans for free on 116 123. You can also write to jo@samaritans.org
- **Papyrus** – For young people under the age of 35 or if there are concerns that a young person is thinking of suicide call Papyrus Hopeline 24/7 – 0800 068 4141 or text 07860 039967.
- **Shropshire Mental Health Support** – Provides immediate support for any person with emotional or mental health needs, including long-term enduring mental health needs or those triggered by recent incidents. Also support for families, friends, carers, and all professionals, with support or guidance needs. Visit www.shropshiremhs.com or call 01743 368 647.
- **NHS 111** – call NHS 111 and select the mental health option – this is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week and the team will help you find the support and help you need

Also help is available without talking to someone over the phone, these text lines are open 24 hours a day, every day:

- **Shout Crisis Text Line** (for everyone): Text “SHOUT” to 85258
- **YoungMindsCrisis** Messenger (for people under 19): Text “YM” to 85258.

If someone is grieving the loss of a loved one, 0345 678 9028 can be called for signposting to the right service.

2. Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA) update

Following the responses to the Cleobury Mortimer and surrounding area resident’s health and wellbeing needs survey. There will be a stakeholder meeting / briefing 10.30 – 12.30 Friday 4th October 2024 at Cleobury Mortimer Library, Love Lane, Cleobury Mortimer, DY14 8PE.

The JSNA team is keen to have input at this event to gain further local knowledge, insight, and understanding around the data. To highlight the strengths, areas of concern, capacity, actions, and next steps needed.

The event will start with an overview presentation on the main themes from the resident’s survey and a group discussion which will include:

- What is already happening around each priority?
- How are we working with the local population?
- Recommendations

3. Shropshire Council Pensions

The Council is a significant employer and as such manages its own Pension fund (via a range of fund managers and advisors); the fund has a value of approx. £2bn. Ultimately it is the tax payer that must ensure that there is sufficient money available to fund Council employee pensions.

So it is good news that the Pension fund is 100% funded according to the actuarial calculation that stipulates the required amount of money set aside for pensions. It is also good news that not only is the annual audit on time (there have been delays during covid times) but that the audit will be 'unqualified'.

For the record the average 'employer contribution' for Council employees is 18%

4. Winter Fuel Payments

With the withdrawal of the Winter Fuel payment it is important more than ever that we keep an eye out for our pensioners over the winter. If you know anyone who may need help please direct them to Shropshire Council either via the web site or vis Shropshire local in the Libraries.

5. Welfare Support Fund

The Welfare support fund has been continued which enables support for anyone struggling financially not just pensioners with targeted support please direct people to the Shropshire Council web site or Shropshire Local at the Library.

6. National Planning Policy Framework

We are now awaiting the outcome of the consultation of The National Planning Policy Framework and how this will affect Shropshire and the number of houses required. As soon as more information is forth coming we will provide an update.

7. Drainage

It is noted in the current torrential rain storms we have experienced over the past few months that we have not experienced any major flooding and the drains appear to be mainly free flowing. If you know of any drains that need attention please report them on Fix my Street as soon as possible before the winter.

8. Green Waste

Over 51000 applications have been received in the first 3 weeks for the scheme raising an annual revenue of £2.9million against a target of £4 million within the whole year.

The distribution of the barcodes for the bins will be rolled out and in the short term Green bins will still be collected until the system has caught up. Updates will follow .

Cllrs Gwilym Butler and Simon Harris

Cleobury Mortimer Division