

Unitary Councillor's Monthly Report for August 2026

I have had a couple of meetings at the Guildhall and the Shirehall this month. The first meeting was regarding a cabinet meeting about the future of the Shirehall. A vote was taken and the result was that the Shirehall is going to be put up for sale. The future owners will then decide the future of the Shirehall, whether it is to demolish or refurbish.

The second meeting was a Full Council meeting. Mostly it was to accept the past financial statements. It was mentioned several times how desperate the Council are financially. I got the impression they are short staffed after voluntary redundancies, and they are now having to go out and source new suitably qualified replacements. I am hopeful this will enable our issues to be dealt with more efficiently and swiftly.

Cleobury Mortimer

After meeting with the headteacher of the primary school, Mrs Desborough, I arranged for Jonathan Eastwood (Traffic Engineering Manager) from Shropshire Council to come out and see what can be done about the concerns raised by the headteacher, along with several other highway issues around Cleobury. I met with Guy James the Chair and Dorothy McBride Clerk from the Town Council along with Jonathan Eastwood and we had a good tour around the town.

I feel it was a very productive meeting, and I thank the Chair and Clerk for their time and valuable knowledge of the Town. I am hopeful that something will be done about all the issues that were raised as listed below.

Double yellow lines, possibly a zebra crossing, and speed reduction around the primary school.
One way system around the Hurst.
Extend the double yellow lines at the top of town
Pavement bollards to deter pavement parking
Eagle lane sign to deter large vehicles
Pelican crossing near the medical centre

I have spoken with P C Jade Ives about the lack of police presence in the town and had a very informative email in reply regarding the works that have been going on behind the scenes regarding drugs etc in the town. I fortunately met PCSO Jacqueline Fletcher and PC Nick Newton outside the lovely Beckie's café, and I discussed with them the slow progress of the speed-watch. They reported that all has been done from their end, they are just waiting on someone higher up to ok it. I asked if they could please chase up again. I also mentioned that there were complaints that there is not enough police presence about the town. PCSO Fletcher said they have drop-in days at the café. I mentioned that their presence would be welcome outside the schools as well.

I have had correspondence from the owner of the Manor house Mr Iqbal. He has unfortunately been in hospital and when convenient with him, he is going to arrange for me to meet with him at the Manor House. I look forward to hearing what he has planned for the Manor house.

I am very happy to report that the fridges and freezers have gone from outside the empty spice express shop! I eventually found out who is responsible for the property and I liaised with the son of the deceased owner to get the freezers and fridges taken away and disposed of safely. I provided him with several collection options I had sourced, and he very kindly agreed and paid.

Nash and Neen Sollars

I unfortunately could not attend the last parish meeting. I have spoken to Juan Hernandez, and he said they need to have 6 applicants before they can put on a course for the Road Warden training. I know how keen you are to get this up and running.

Coreley

At the last parish meeting it was discussed about the need for a lengths-man. I have set in motion for my son to be considered as he has the necessary equipment, for example a hedgecutter, digger, trailer, all the equipment needed for this type of work, he is self-employed, local to Clee Hill, young and a keen hard worker. I was due to have a meeting with Andy Keyland, Highways Manager, where I could remind him of all the works already reported and still waiting to be fixed, but he cancelled our meeting as he is on leave.

Boraston

I have a meeting arranged with Jonathan Eastwood the new Traffic Engineering Manager on 11th August regarding the speed limit around Boraston. I have met with him already in Cleobury Mortimer and I am confident that he will be keen to help.

Shropshire Council

As mentioned previously, the council are in a very difficult financial position. I have taken up the offer for the new Chief Executive Tanya Miles to come and visit us. It is called Walk the Wards. This will be a great opportunity for local businesses and parish councils to speak about any concerns they have. It is not meant to be formal at all. I have the date booked 9th October in the afternoon. David and I think it would be a good idea to have this as a joint venture for both our parishes, rather than do it separately. Local businesses will be invited to Hopton Court by kind permission of Chris Woodward. Chairs and Clerks will be invited to meet at the Market Hall, by the church in Cleobury. It will be invitation only. Please pencil this in your diaries. I have also arranged for Tanya to visit the Leisure Centre and meet with the Friends of the Leisure Centre, so she can see for herself how valuable this centre is and how hard the Friends have worked to keep it open. This is a great opportunity for you all to get to speak to Tanya, and I hope you will all take it up.

with kindest regards
Pamela