

Unitary Councillor's January 2026 Report

Dear Councillors

I am aware that my monthly report is not a full as the previous Councillor's report. I am learning as I go. Trying to attend as many parish council meetings and other meetings as I can. When I can't attend, I will endeavour to send a report to you prior to the meeting. As always, if there is something specific where I am requested to attend I will. I am always contactable by email.

Cleobury Mortimer

I am happy to report that the post office opened the beginning of December after a lot of chasing up with Stuart Anderson and waiting patiently.

The brick wall that was reported to me opposite the Talbot car park, has been repaired and the vegetation has been removed.

Regarding the proposed speed-watch, I am waiting for the forms from volunteers to be completed and forwarded on to me. I can then submit these to P C Jade Ives to be vetted. This will need to be approved.

I believe the fundraising for the Leisure centre is going well, around £34,000 now, which is a great achievement. I am still waiting to hear from a couple of other charitable organisations that I have applied for, to see if I can get a donation from them, fingers crossed.

I have again chased up with Andy Keyland about the road subsidence on the Tenbury Road, which was reported to me again at councillor surgery.

Coreley

I had a meeting going back sometime now at the Cross pub on Clee Hill, with local sheep farmer Daley Genner, Tony Hayward and Charles Shackerley-Bennett, Unitary Councillor for Clee Hill. It was regarding sheep being killed by traffic speeding across the common, and if there could be a solution to this problem.

I have contacted Daley again, for any information, regarding a record of how many sheep have been killed, but I have not heard anything so far.

Boraston

Severn Trent's new Mains Renewal programme to replace 870 miles of aging pipes to ensure a reliable water supply over the next five years. One of the first areas identified being Shropshire, specifically the Cleobury Mortimer area. This is obviously going to cause some disruption due to road closures. They are hoping to begin works on 26th January 2026 and begin at Trapnell Inn Junction to Keady Orchards Junction, Boraston Bank. This will take approximately 6 months. There is going to be a community drop-in session at Cleobury Mortimer Village Hall on 7th January between 3.30 and 6 p.m. The Clerk from Boraston is chasing up to see if there can be a more local meeting near to Boraston as the works are starting there.

Neen Sollars and Milson

Please see note regarding Severn Trent mains renewal programme above.

Shropshire County Council

The council are carrying out a public consultation to understand the views of residents regarding changes to service provision and council tax for the coming year. The financial position the council is in mean that changes will have to be made.

I attended the full council meeting at the Guildhall in Shrewsbury. All items that were brought up were approved i.e. payrise for council staff, Audit report – improvement plan approved, people plan approved, pay award for senior officers approved and appointment of interim chief executive Tanya.

There was much discussion about the future of the old Shirehall building and site. More information is being investigated on the costs involved in either demolishing or reinstating. Some options could provide much needed homes and local services. Apparently it costs around £400,000 a year to maintain and keep the Shirehall secure.

Stopping the delivery of the Schools Library Service which was approved at Cabinet on 3 December. This year they expect to subsidise this service between £79,000 and £90,000 and based on previous years, that figure is expected to increase. They are seeking expressions of interest from organisations who may wish to take on the delivery of this service and they will hopefully be able to provide an update in February. It is also worth noting that, in September, the Department for Education announced a government commitment to fund libraries in all state primary schools in England by the end of this parliament. If no one was to come forward to run the SLA, they plan to give the books to help our schools start their own libraries.

A decision was made at informal Cabinet that certain non-statutory grants would be discontinued. Shropshire Partners in Care last year were awarded (£81,000), Sight and Hearing Loss Support (£54,000) and Stroke Association (£44,000).

By pressing ahead with these difficult decisions, it could save around £660,000 a year.

I wish you all a Happy New Year!

Pamela