

Unitary Councillor's July 2026 Report

Dear Councillors

I attended the SSLAC meeting at the Bishop Mascall Centre where Juan Hernandez was giving a presentation regarding the Road Warden Scheme.

I am happy to report that things are moving forward in Neen Sollars. If any parish would like to take up the road warden scheme, their lengths-man will need to do the training which is provided by Shropshire Council at no cost. Please let me know and I can arrange.

Cleobury Mortimer

I have contacted PC Jade Ives regarding the Speedwatch in Cleobury Mortimer, she is very busy, but vetting is going ahead slowly.

I have tried to find out who owns the Spice Express takeaway shop which has fridges and freezers outside which are unsightly and a health and safety hazard. It worries me because a local family I know lost three children who were playing and got inside a freezer and suffocated to death.

Apparently, the owner of the now vacant Spice Express takeaway has passed away, and I am in touch with his brother Shalim who has assured me he is going to get them removed. I have given him the contact number for Shropshire Council large white goods removal. There is a small charge, but I will keep on until they are removed. Since writing this, Shropshire Council do not collect from businesses. I have contacted the son of the late owner and sent him quotes from different firms to get the freezers collected and disposed of safely.

I have visited the Lacon Childe school and met the head Mr Weston. I brought up the Flourish & Nourish community garden and how the school can get involved, such as the Duke of Edinburgh award for community volunteering. Also, a while ago I met with a NFU representative and didn't realise they did school visits and supply primary school books on farming and planting etc. I sent for some of these booklets and seeds and have given them to the primary school, and also to Flourish & Nourish. I met the headteacher of Cleobury Mortimer primary school today, Mrs Desborough. I used to work as school secretary at Bitterley Primary school, and I thoroughly enjoyed having a tour around the school and meeting the children.

I attended the Friends of the leisure centre Prosecco afternoon tea with my grandson. It was a pleasant afternoon, very well organised and I give my gratitude and thanks to the organisers for their efforts. I had non-Prosecco!

The Food and Ale trail made over £3,000 which was absolutely fantastic! I am truly amazed how this town and the friends of the leisure centre have come together and worked so hard to save their leisure centre.

Manor House

I have contacted a planning colleague who is looking into the Manor House to see if I can help in any way and I am also in touch with Nigel Reid who is the lead in the Save the Manor House.

I had some very sad news that a local lady who I was helping with a blue badge application has passed away. I am going to investigate why it has taken over eight months for a blue badge application?

Coreley

I had a meeting with Andy Keyland, Highways Manager today and reminded him of the cats' eyes and potholes, white lines, snowploughing, and gritting route etc again. He said he has it programmed and will arrange a date.

Milson and Neen Savage

Thank you for inviting me to the afternoon tea where I had the pleasure of meeting Stuart Anderson. I have had correspondence with him regarding a few issues such as Hopton Wafers Bridge traffic lights and the Blount traffic lights. I am very happy to hear that your lengths-man is taking up the offer of training for the Road Warden scheme. Juan Hernandez is chasing up the poo bin.

Boraston

I have chased up with Andy Keyland re the ford bridge, and he said he has this in hand and is organising for it to be dealt with.

Shropshire County Council

Tanya the new Chief Executive of the Council is offering a Walk the Wards. I have taken up her offer, and I am in the process of organising a route and venue where local businesses and parish chairs will be able to meet and take up the opportunity to have your say. The date will be 9th October.

Local plan. Please find attached information that has been very kindly put together to give a clear guide for parish and town councillors, in order to help engage successfully with the Local Plan process. It explains how the new local plan decides where housing goes, why the county-wide figure has risen, and how it is in the methodology, rather than specific sites, that can be influenced before the consultation closes on 15th July. It includes a plain English summary, a simple five-step method any parish can apply to its own village.

I had a meeting with Andy Wilde regarding the current condition of Shropshire's highway network and the pressures facing the highways service, the scale of pothole and drainage issues following a difficult winter, and the need for improved communication with elected members and residents. I can share a few details.

In the first four months the service received the same volume of complaints as it normally receives in a full year.

Surface dressing and planned maintenance provide far better value than reactive pothole repairs. Surface dressing was described as costing approximately £7 per square metre compared with pothole repairs at approximately £100 per square metre.

Around £33 million per year was identified as the level of investment needed to maintain the network at an acceptable condition. The current funding position allows steady-state maintenance but not meaningful improvement. Too much of the budget is currently consumed by statutory pothole repairs, limiting the ability to invest in preventative programmes.

The previous Kier contract was discussed. Pothole work has now largely been removed from Kier and transferred to Multivo, with Mortimer also referenced in relation to more focused reactive maintenance delivery.

Drainage services have been brought back in-house, with dedicated teams and equipment. This has helped reduce the number of unresolved flood sites requiring external investigation.

Previous restructuring reduced local technician capacity significantly. The service is now seeking to rebuild capability, including assistant managers, more technicians, a traffic engineering manager, and a permanent full-time head of highways.

Fix My Street was recognised as useful for simpler reports but less effective for complex, multi-issue, or recurring problems. It was acknowledged that digital systems alone will not resolve communication and case management problems.

Members at the meeting raised repeated concerns about lack of updates, difficulty identifying the correct officer contact, inconsistent communication between areas, and limited visibility of planned works or completed works.

A follow up meeting with Andy Wilde is planned to update on progress and outstanding matters.

I attach some information regarding local plan for your perusal.

Kindest regards
Pamela