

Unitary Councillor's March 2026 Report

Dear Councillors

It has been a very busy month. Every parish council are reporting potholes! I have written to Andy Keyland and to Heather Kidd, who forwarded my email onto David Vasmer. I am still waiting for a reply. David Vasmer did put out a press release, but that has not answered the questions I put forward. When I get a reply, I will of-course share.

Cleobury Mortimer

I have requested a meeting with Alex Wagner to talk potholes and the suggestion of parish council's to be able to fix their potholes in local lanes themselves. Of-course, this would be with the appropriate training, equipment, and insurance. I appreciate that not all parish councils are keen, but some are.

I am happy to hear that the Speed-watch has been taken up by Ben Williams, Town Councillor and we have had a few volunteers come forward. The more volunteers the better. We need at least six volunteers before this can go ahead.

Regarding the Cleobury Leisure centre, I applied to a couple of local establishments/charities for a donation, but unfortunately my request was declined.

I have written to the Ludlow Rotary Cares Committee, expressing my full support for the funding application submitted by the "Friends of Cleobury Sports Centre." I cannot praise enough the work and determination of the Friends.

I am pleased to report that the fundraising is continuing, with more events planned. Currently, there is £11,500 left to raise. This is taking into account the £15,000, from the Town Council, should there be a shortfall.

I was looking forward to going to the Motown evening, but it was unfortunately cancelled because the DJ was ill. It has been rearranged. There are more fundraising events being planned.

Thank you to all the parish councils that have very kindly donated towards the leisure centre fund.

Boraston

Emails have been flowing regarding the proposed planning for 100 houses at Burford. I have emailed planning, asking why Boraston Parish were not consulted? Phil Bustin the Clerk has asked for Boraston to be included in any future Burford meetings regarding this planning.

I have chased up the white line painting with Andy Keyland again.

Coreley

Regarding the gritting etc. around the village, the council have asked for a plan of the roads that need gritting.

Neen Sollars and Milson

I attended the last parish council meeting and had the pleasure of meeting local residents. I share their views regarding the terrible condition of the roads and agree something desperate needs to be done. I applaud the parish councillors for their determination. I have written asking questions that have been put to me. As above, I am meeting with Alex Wagner with a view to highlighting how dangerous the roads are and that your parish is keen to help themselves regarding potholes. I hope to be able to report back positively. If there is anything else I can do, please do not hesitate to let me know.

Shropshire County Council

Full Council met to set the budget for the year ahead (2026/27). The budget for 26/27 relies on Exceptional Financial Support (EFS) from the Government. Shropshire Council has been awarded Exceptional Financial Support and is one of around 40 councils across the country to receive EFS. This is not a bail out, but money that must be paid back with interest.

Regarding the council tax increase, the liberal council voted to increase this by 8.99%. This is more than 4% more than it is normally capped at, which should raise an additional £8.8 million income for the council. If any household is struggling, they can contact the Council Tax support pages **Council tax assistance Shropshire Council**.

Shropshire Council has approved a new Town and Parish Council Asset Transfer Policy. The policy is designed to strengthen local decision making, protect community assets and enable town and parish councils to take a more active role in managing buildings and spaces.

I do try to be at the monthly Farmers Market alongside the Town Council, to meet the local residents, who have concerns, and I will do my best to investigate and follow up.

Kindest regards
Pamela