

## **October Report 2023**

### **Healthy People : Healthy Economy : Healthy Environment : Healthy Organisation**

1. Please be aware the resurfacing of the A4117 from Cleobury to Lem Hill /Worcestershire border starts on 2<sup>nd</sup> October for four weeks with weekday time closures 930am - 430pm. Weekend 7am-5pm . Please use other routes where available. The official redirections will be based on A roads, but do take care as local lanes will be busier than usual .

2. The Council is currently undertaking a complete survey of its building stocks in relation to the Concrete RAAC notification by Government. To date none of the school stock has been identified but all other buildings are being looked at. The age range is from 1930-1990, usually in roof areas and mezzanine floors. This will not just effect the public sector and if you are aware of buildings that could be effected please take the appropriate measures in having them reviewed.

3. The Leader of the Council Lezley Picton will be at Kinlet Parish Council meeting on the 9<sup>th</sup> October to address any issues the Council or parishioners have.

4. At Full Council in Sep23 a motion has been tabled to ask the Council to support the campaign for bathing quality water on the River Severn at Shrewsbury and Bridgnorth, and the River Teme at Ludlow, by writing to the Secretary of State for the Environment Food and Rural Affairs to confirm the support of Shropshire Council for bathing status. The Task & Finish working group on cleaner (ie reduced sewage) in our waterways continues – and a report as to what action Shropshire Council can take is due in the 3Q23.

5. We have received a presentation from the recently appointed Head of Improvement – this new role is tasked with ensuring that the all Council Officers work towards the Council's clearly stated objectives ie at the Department, Team and Individual levels. There should now be a breaking down of working silos and a more holistic approach to annual individual 'goals and measures' – we have been assured that if Officers do not achieve targets (obviously after a thorough personal development plan review and training, there will be consequences. Hopefully this dynamic approach will improve service levels.

6. We have received a presentation on the Council's procurement policies (and the regulations which they follow). Council procurement can be as much a £350m annually reaching across areas of the Council's work – there is a clear tendering process; though there is also a focus on carbon reduction and aiming a 'buying local'. There are strict rules on corporate entertainment, etc. There are regular audits – and nothing inappropriate has been identified.

7. The council is entering into a memorandum of understanding with, Herefordshire, Monmouthshire, and Powys to become the Marches group which will look at working jointly to attract funding and deliver services from everything from Health , Travel, economy and education to name just a few . No councils are tied in and can still work independently but

where there is issues of joint concern they can apply jointly for funding and share best practice. This has already got attention form Central Government and is also backed by the Welsh Senydd in Cardiff. Wrexham and Cheshire West Councils are also looking on with interest. As communities we do not see the Wales/England border but have a golden opportunity to create an area of mutual need for devolved powers from government wo want to deal with larger demographics than the smaller Councils them selves. Very much a Watch this space !

Cllrs Gwilym Butler and Simon Harris

Cleobury Mortimer Division