

BHPC - Chair's Report Monday 14th November 2022.

On Tuesday 4th October I had the pleasure of visiting Bayston Hill Library to take part in The Big Green Week Storytime session. The children were delightful and listened to stories about Hedgehogs and other British Wildlife followed by a craft session where they created their own hedgehogs using autumn leaves, photographs of which are on the Bayston Hill Parish Council website and Facebook page.

In the evening, I attended the Extra Shrewsbury Full Council meeting at St Chads to hear the proposals for the Health and Wellbeing Hub.

After hearing from the doctors whose practices are involved, including The Beeches Medical Practice, Bayston Hill, the public had the opportunity to comment and ask questions. The main concern raised by many was how would patients get to the site wherever it might be. A junior representative from Shropshire Council was sent to address the meeting and confirmed that Shropshire Council would not be able to provide free transport to the Hub from the different areas concerned. Shrewsbury Councillors expressed their disappointment that Shropshire Council did not send the senior representative to address patients concerns about transport. Many concerned patients have expressed the view that an improved Doctors' Surgery in their own local area, within walking distance is their preferred outcome.

Another concern was that the Hub would not only be used for the surgeries that would close but would service all surgeries and 72 000 patients in Shrewsbury. No definite site was identified although the site at Meole was mentioned several times.

At the end of meeting Shrewsbury Councillors expressed their concerns about several aspects of the meeting. They felt that, although there were several options they were disappointed that the

focus that evening by representatives from the practices was on closing the practices in question and moving to a Hub. The Chair spoke about their concern that the Council had only heard one option based on the presumption that the £40 million available would only be given if the practices closed and a Hub was created. The Chair explained that they had contacted NHS England and been told that NHS England would work with the practices to find the best solution. The Council asked that the representatives from the practices go away and bring back alternative options to Full Council in April 2023.

On Saturday 8th October The Big Green Week held the Apple Pressing event for the second year running. It was a great success and the BGW Committee are already thinking about ways to extend this event next year, all ideas welcome.

On Wednesday 12th October Bayston Hill Parish Councillors attended a Strategic Planning meeting led by Kim Bedford. The meeting was well attended and very helpful in identifying the priorities for future projects in Bayston Hill in the coming year and beyond.

On Friday 11th November 2022 I will be attending a Remembrance Service at the Memorial Hall. On Wednesday 30th November the Bayston Hill Christmas Tree will be arriving and on Monday 12th December I will be attending the Bowdler Trust meeting as a Trustee and Representative of Bayston Hill Parish Council. This is a charitable trust that awards grants to children and young adults in the Shrewsbury area who are in need of support with their educational studies.

Caroline Clode

Bayston Hill parish Council Chair