

## Shropshire Councillor report (Ted Clarke)

February 2024

With £14m of the £50m funding shortfall still to be found for this year's revenue requirements, the Council are now facing a further swinging £62m shortfall in required revenue budget for coming year 2024/25. The SC Cabinet on 21.02.24 will have to consider substantial cuts in Council staffing and in all non-statutory public services - a long list that includes everything from local libraries to green waste collection. The full Council are then scheduled to meet on Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> February . . .

The planning committee have now closely examined the many conditions imposed on constructors of the Northwest Relief Road. Members were particularly mindful of Environment Agency concerns about the possible "significant risks" to the quality of the public water supply from Shelton Tower.

Consultation on Shrewsbury riverside and Pride Hill demolition/re-development is in progress.

Improving facilities and providing a swimming pool at the Sundorne Sports Village are also out for consultation. There are concerns that S'bury baths will perhaps be entirely closed over longer term.

The substantially increases in S'bury car-parking charges has prompted a vigorous debate in Council.

Heritage funding has been awarded for conservation project in Victorian section of S'bury cemetery.

Eight unauthorised road closures across the County have led STWater to pay £43K in fines & costs.

The mild winter has awakened hibernating toads and triggered late night closure of three roads in Ellesmere. Their migratory route to spawning grounds is patrolled by volunteers with buckets!

*Locally:* The reliability of Bayston Hill/Shrewsbury 27 bus service now seems much improved?

Separately, I'd welcome any "feedback" from local users of the new "Connect On-Demand" service.

tc

18.02.24