

Shropshire Councillor Report September 2020

The second remote meeting of Council was held last Thursday from 10 till 2.30. Seventy plus Cllrs in their own homes, each voting electronically on all the relevant agenda items.

Councillors approved the appointment of the former Director of Adult Services, Andy Begley, as the new Chief Executive of Shropshire Council. There were 26 applicants for the vacant post. Following the resignation of the previous Chief Executive in April, Mr Begley had been jointly managing the role with the Director of Children's Services.

Officers were requested to provide a full report back to next Council meeting on its new strategies and support services for all council staff now largely working from home.

The upper floors of Shirehall will be closed and only the first and second floors of the building maintained for ongoing use. Over the last month staff have been visiting Shirehall to clear their former workstations.

There was cross party support for the motion that Shropshire Council objects to the Government's white paper proposals for fundamental changes in the local planning process.

A supported living accommodation facility is being designed to enable people with complex needs to live more independently. The scheme will link to the SC farm in Walford Heath, which already provides facilities and day care opportunities to vulnerable people. The project will be funded by borrowings from Public Works Loan Board and will be managed by a housing association company. The "PassivHaus" modular building(s) will incorporate very high levels of insulation, complete ventilation control and use of renewable energy systems.

Grant assistance of £5million has been obtained towards major redesign & reconfiguration of the Pride Hill centre in Shrewsbury.

Further archaeological excavations within the Shrewsbury Castle grounds continued through the summer. The findings are now being analysed and a detailed report is to be published.

A paper copy of the latest 200-page draft of the next "Local Plan" for Shropshire is now available for study in our local library. For ease of reference I have marked the 2/3 pages that include the detail of Policy Officers' preferences for future development in Bayston Hill.

Vexingly, I am having great difficulties obtaining replacement of the various collapsed street signs around the village. I am also continuing to press for further attention to be given to long-neglected defects in the original storm water drainage system in two of our streets.

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