

Report 18 for Whixall Parish Council

by Shropshire Councillors Peter Broomhall + Edward Towers – October 2023

Dear All – Please find below our eighteenth written report as your County Councillors.

Full Shropshire Council Meeting was on Thursday 21st September in the Council Chamber at Shirehall, Shrewsbury. SY2 6ND.

After introductory remarks, minutes, etc there followed **Public Questions**. There were six:

1. **Asking for an explanation about the basis the Leader of the Council uses to select the councillors to be chairs of overview and scrutiny committees.**
2. **Asking about the delays in key dates for the proposed North West Relief Road (NWRR) works programmed and wanting an answer as to what the advanced works/utility comprised of and what budget has been allocated to this work which will be at risk given the Dept of Transport has not signed off the Business Case for the road at that point.**
3. **Asking about the new 20mph default national speed limit that has now been introduced in Wales on 17/9/2023 and wanting to know that in view of the risks highlighted by the UK and Welsh public health organisations and the World Health Organisation, when SC will accept their advice and introduce a default 20 mph limit on residential roads and streets in Shropshire.**
4. **Asking and complaining about the Council's 'lack of action' in protecting cars on London Road, Shrewsbury because this particular person's household has had 3 cars written off recently, which could have been avoided if adequate safety measures were in place (other reasons were given). Urgent adequate safety measures were sought to be put in place along this road.**
5. **Asking if that if planning permission for the NWRR be granted that SC confirm whether any trees or hedgerows will be cut down prior to approval of the Full Business Case by the Dept of Transport.**
6. **Asking about the reported news that SC considered issuing a Section 114 Notice (to declare that no new expenditure is permitted with the exception of statutory services, including safeguarding vulnerable people, but that existing commitments and contracts continue to be honoured). They asked were the Council's finances so bad that this was a serious suggestion and how this could have come about when the Conservative Group had been in charge of the Council for many years.**

Each was answered by the appropriate Portfolio Holder and these can be found on the SC website.

Then followed a series of reports for the Council to receive. These were on:

1. **Report of Andy Begley (Returning Officer) on the Worfield By-Election** which the Andrew Sherrington of the Liberal Democrats had narrowly won from the Conservatives. The new member was welcomed to the Council.
2. **Annual Assurance Report of the Audit Committee to Council 2022/23**
3. **Capital Strategy 2022/23 - 2027/28** (Where incidentally an error was made and later picked up by several members. We have now had James Walton [Executive Director of Resources and Section 151 Officer] write to us with the following explanation:
'The paper before Council today was to approve the draft capital strategy ahead of wider member engagement in overview and scrutiny and was not to approve specific funding.
For clarity, the approvals given by Full Council today did not provide any additional funding to the Northwest Relief Road (NWRR) as the content of the report clearly outlined that Council should note the considerations in relation to the NWRR and not to approve any funding.
As a result of an officer mistake, the Appendices B and C contained an error estimating increased costs and proposing additional funding for the NWRR. This figure should have been removed as it was a remnant of working documents whereby finance officers had incorporated an extremely rough estimate based on high levels of inflation, assumptions about contingencies and delays. This was in effect a 'holding' figure, often used by finance officers when modelling potential costs or budget projections and was not derived from consultation or information from the project team, or operational officers involved in the NWRR.
To correct this, we are required to amend the single figure and recirculate Appendices B and C to all members of the council to clarify the situation. We also commit to bringing full clarification to Full Council in December as necessary.
[Underlining for emphasis is ours, not James Walton's!]
4. **Pyrolysis Project.** A synopsis of this report was to seek approval for the procurement, installation, and operation of a pyrolysis demonstration unit which will process Council green waste and other residual biomass into biochar, renewable energy, and associated carbon credits.
After a lively and informed debate this trial project was approved. You will remember that we have been reporting on this each month since the Shropshire Climate and Carbon Advisory Board was set up and which ET has been invited to sit on. [See little more detail below]
5. **Marches Forward Partnership Memorandum of Understanding.** This report was a very warmly welcomed and historic proposal that had at its heart cross-border co-operation between adjoining counties and adjoining local authorities in Wales. It covers an area of 800,000 population and so gives greater weight in funding applications to central government. It was presented by Lezley Picton as Leader of SC and sought approval for the Council to sign a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between Shropshire Council, Herefordshire Council and Monmouthshire and

Powys County Council's for collaboration as a Marches Forward Partnership. After a lot of welcoming cross-party comments it was unanimously accepted. More specifically this MOU says:

- A) The Shropshire Plan's healthy organisation priority recognises the importance of putting the Council's resources in the right place to deliver the organisation's priorities and meet the needs of our residents. This includes maximising external funding opportunities and collaborating with neighbouring authorities to share best practice and support financial resilience of services through joint working initiatives.
- B) Shropshire Council has been working collaboratively with Herefordshire Council and both Monmouthshire and Powys County Councils to develop a common understanding of each other's organisations. The aim has been to establish areas where there is mutual benefit and added value in working together, supporting each other's strategic aims and leveraging combined knowledge, resources and activities.
- C) Geographically, the neighbouring local authorities cover a contiguous area which straddles over 80% of the English and Welsh border. Commuting patterns and access to retail, education, business support and healthcare services all reflect the functional profile of the area.
- D) The local authorities are bound together by common purpose based on a high quality rural environment, but with consequent more expensive access to services, changing service demands from an ageing population and low levels of productivity and employment growth. Given this profile, the local authorities are keen to explore a shared ambition for rural based growth, identifying opportunities for strategic collaboration on agreed projects and initiatives. This approach is aimed at ensuring effective local joint working and provides a basis, using the power of the collective area, to develop investment propositions for Government and partners.
- E) Whilst the local authorities have interacted with one another as neighbouring areas on many levels for a long time, these activities have not previously been fully coordinated. There is now an opportunity and willingness to align respective strategic visions, plans and resources for the maximum benefit on the Marches and cross border area.
- F) This emphasis on greater cross border understanding has intensified for many local authorities over recent years, with a shared focus on partnership working. This is supported by greater flexibility and an emphasis on strategic collaboration from Government, recently illustrated by the Wales and Cornwall Celtic-Heritage Collaboration Agreement.
- G) Covering the gateway between England and Wales, the Marches Forward Partnership could provide opportunity for the border local authorities to coordinate future joint working under a flexible umbrella framework. It is aimed at supporting a shared understanding of 'life on the borders' as a focus for strategic joint working and as a means to unlock additional investment into the area.
- H) The Partnership will focus its collaboration only where it adds the greatest value. All participating councils will maintain independent decision making and local delivery within each local authority area, where this continues to be most appropriate, including involvement in other beneficial partnership arrangements.

6. **Statutory Review of Polling Districts, Polling Places and Polling Stations.** This is begin now.

7. **Annual Report of the Portfolio Holder for Children and Education was presented.** It provided an update on key achievements and developments within Early Help, Children's Social Care & Safeguarding and Education & Achievement from April 2022 to March 2023. This includes updates following recent Ofsted inspections and some early indications of education achievement during the summer term 2023.

8. **Constitution of Committees and Allocation of Seats 2023 – 24.** This report dealt with the overall constitution of committees, the entitlement of seats for each of the political groups and the proportionate allocation of seats between the groups across all committees in accordance with the Local Government Act 1989. It was largely to adjust for the changes that had to be made with the Liberal Democrats gaining more seats at the expense of other parties.

This means that now the maximum number of seats available to each group within the political balance rules will be:

Seats per Group - Conservatives 60 Liberal Democrats 23 Labour 14 Independent 5 and Green 6so a **Total of 108 on committees in all.**

9. **Appointment to Committees** - Various Councillors were moved around the various committees for a number of reasons and ET has now been put in the Independent seat on Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee (or HOSC) to replace David Minnery who has now become Chairman of the Shropshire, Telford and Wrekin Fire Authority.

10. **Then followed consideration of 3 motions** which were:

A) Regarding the need for more funding into Brain Tumours. It was proposed that the council write to the government minister asking that they immediately address the issue of the funding shortfall. Furthermore the urgent need to provide extra resource and to set in motion a programme of research to effectively diagnose much earlier and to accelerate the commencement and development of clinical trials in an endeavour to introduce treatments and to find a cure. **This was accepted and the motion was passed unanimously.**

B) Regarding the Protection of Shropshire's Public Buildings from Crumbling Concrete (RAAC).

It was noted that The concern that has been caused by the presence of Reinforced Autoclaved Aerated Concrete (RAAC) in buildings across the UK and that the Council wishes to show its appreciation for the ongoing efforts of officers in the Estates and Education departments and our partners to assess the presence of RAAC in Shropshire Council owned buildings throughout Shropshire.....and so proposed that:

- i. Publish a list of all Council estate buildings and their RAAC assessments when complete.
- ii. Co-ordinate assessment responses across Shropshire Schools and publish the outcomes on the Shropshire Council website.
- iii. Identify any grade D buildings in Shropshire, as well as identify any grade Cs for preventative investment, as soon as possible.
- iv. Confirm plans for mitigation and repairs.
- v. Include this issue on the Council's Strategic Risk & Issues Log, to acknowledge the scale of risk and to monitor progress and impact.

This was accepted and the motion was passed unanimously.

C) Bathing Water Designation on the River Severn

It was noted that 'Bathing Water Designations' on the Rivers Severn and Teme could support the overall aims of the Council, and other agencies, to progress water quality and environmental improvements on the rivers, while providing residents and visitors the opportunity to swim in clean water.

Consequently it was proposed that Council resolves to support the campaign for Bathing quality 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.

This was accepted and the motion was passed unanimously.

The followed Members Questions. There were six:

Question from Councillor Garry Burchett

Could the Cabinet Member for highways give me an estimate for the amount of traffic that would be removed from travelling through Shrewsbury town Centre when the North West Relief Road is built? Could the Cabinet Member for highways give me an estimate for the amount of traffic that would be removed from travelling through Shrewsbury town Centre when the North West Relief Road is built?

Question from Councillor Julian Dean

As we head towards another winter with many struggling due to energy costs, what progress can the administration report with regard to upgrading the council's housing stock with appropriate insulation to improve health and wellbeing and reduce bills whilst also enabling the conversion to non-fossil fuel heating systems as will be required by local and national commitments to achieve carbon net zero?

Question from Councillor Ruth Houghton

Shropshire Council, through its Public Health duty, commissions services from, and contracts with, local NHS Providers. How does the Council ensure that there are robust HR processes in place within each NHS provider organisation and that the services delivered are fully supported by an Equality Impact Assessment?

Question from Councillor Vivienne Parry

AIR B&Bs and Holiday lets are businesses and are asked to pay for rubbish bins, they are not doing this ,asking people who stay on holiday to take rubbish with them home but in many cases this does not happen it is dumped in the waste small black bins on street, or in parks or in the street all over the floor. Council waste bin collectors not the dustbin men tell me that they have been told not to collect and it stands on the ground for days not collected with vermin running over it. I have then asked for a collection which I would think costs this Council more money and because it has been left on the floor spills everywhere needing to be swept time and money. The officer Zoe Mortimer came to look at this last week I hope we can do something about this as it makes Ludlow look bad and I am sure visitors wonder why our beautiful town is left in this state .Asking one of the pubs in town the landlady said she pays £150 a week for her waste to be removed why are other businesses able to get away with not paying . Please can something be done urgently?

Question from Councillor Bernie Bentick

Regarding adoption of developments within Shropshire, 1. How does the Planning Dept decide that a development is ready for adoption and what is the time standard for adoption, after the development is ready for this? 2. How many and which specific developments are outstanding & what steps are being taken to clear this backlog? 3. How does the Planning Dept assess whether Section 106 agreements have been delivered, how many and which specific agreements have not been delivered & what enforcement action has been taken?

Question from Councillor David Vasmer

Could officers provide a list of schools within Shropshire that have been found to contain buildings made from reinforced autoclaved aerated concrete (Raac) given concerns about its safety ? What arrangements are the Council putting in place to further identify schools which might be at risk Are there any other Shropshire owned buildings that could contain Raac?

To each of these written answers were given, as well as the opportunity to ask a 'follow up' question. As these were quite detailed in some cases, and to save this report becoming too long!....could we ask that if you need to know them you contact us so that we can then pass them on to you?

Finally the Council then went into 'closed session' to discuss and update on the Alveley Industrial Estate and the Chief Officer pay award for 23/24. Following discussions, recommendations and questions the proposals that were put forward were agreed.

The next Full Council was on 14th December in the Council Chamber at Shirehall, Shrewsbury. SY2 6ND

Shropshire Climate and Carbon Advisory Board:

There is nothing further to report from this Board since our September report that noted the happening at the last meeting held on Friday 21st July for ET.....other than the detailed business case for investment in a demonstrator pyrolysis plant for consideration by Council in December 2023 was agreed at the recent Full Shropshire Council meeting.

As we said last month detailed investigation is ongoing to establish the potential for feedstock for the plant from both the maintenance of Shropshire Council's estate and from collected green waste. The process may be able to generate a range of benefits and income from a range of products, including:

- a. biochar which can be used to improve the productivity and water retention capacity of agricultural land or incorporated into construction materials and road resurfacing
- b. Heat energy to power the plant and generate heat and power for export
- c. Carbon removal credits (Corcs) for sale to organisations wishing to offset part of their carbon footprint

Shropshire Local Plan Member Group: Cross-Party Group (of which ET is part) had an on-line meeting on 20th September to catch up with where things are currently with **the SAMDEV 2025-2035 Local Plan**. The update for us was that the Planning Inspectorate is still dealing with Stage 1 which you may remember is all about the 'technicalities of the process' before they move onto Stage 2....the suggested 'Site Allocations' that SC is proposing. The remaining question being considered by all parties now seems to be, does the housing need meet the housing requirement?

The main part of our discussions then dealt with all that is going on about the **May 2022 Government Levelling Up and Regeneration Bill**, which includes a proportion of the proposals for longer-term changes to the planning system. The Government has a twin-tracked process on the Bill through Parliament with a series of consultations focusing on 'short-term' changes to the planning process and implementation of proposals. One of these focuses on reforms to 'plan-making' with the intention of making them simpler and faster to prepare and more accessible. (The one we are currently discussing, for example has already taken 6-7 years!). The proposals are discussing doing all this in a 30-month time-frame! Whilst there are things to be welcomed in making things quicker there are also some serious concerns in that things might be more mandated from the centre and that local considerations are lost. What is needed for a rural area with 60-70 sites to consider is not the same for a metropolitan one with say just 7!, so more than 30 months may be needed for proper preparation and consideration in a rural area such as Shropshire. Our SC Officers are working hard on this and are in consultation with other Local Authorities as we respond to the 43 questions that are across a range of issues in this consultation. If you would like more details about this ET can share a summary powerpoint giving key points at this stage, so do ask. The aim is that our SC response will be sent to the SC Cabinet for their 18/10/2023 meeting to be formally agreed and sent to Government.

The following groups:

a) Shropshire Helicopter and Noise Liaison Group (HNLG) – ET and PB attend as representatives of SC

b) Public Transport Working Group: Cross-Party Group (of which ET is part) have not met since....so nothing further to report since the update given over last two/three months

Shropshire Council Member Briefing Sessions:

We have had four since we reported to you at the September Parish Council meeting.....

1. **On 6th September we were shown details of the Hospital Transformation Programme for PRH and RSH.** Much has been going on about this, as you will know from the local media. It was led by Mathew Neal, Director of the Hospitals Transformation Programme who with the help of various NHS team members, explained the background and engagement to date that they have been having. The we were shown the Proposals for the Royal Shrewsbury Hospital as part of the planning application which covered:
 - a. Benefits of the application
 - b. Design
 - c. Transport
 - d. Sustainability
 - e. Programme & Construction
 - f. Response to feedback
2. **On 11th September we were updated on SC's 'Transformation Programme'** by the Chief Executive Andy Begley and one of his team Billy Webster
3. **Also on 11th September we were briefed on SC's Planning Improvement** by Tracey Darke (Assistant Director of Economy and Place) and Tabitha Lythe (Planning and Development Services Manager)
....for both of 3. and 4. briefings powerpoints were shown that can be shared should any wish want more details on these presentations.
4. There was also an **In-Person briefing at Shirehall on 13th September explaining 'What is meant by Adult Social Care & Digital and Assistive Technology'** that both of us were unable to attend because we had a prior commitment here in Wem Division. If further details are needed about this then let us know.
5. There was a **Developer Contributions** briefing on 25th September that ET was unable to attend. However for those wanting more information about these a transcription and accompanying set of powerpoint presentation slides have been made.

Shropshire Council Task and Finish Groups:

These are Cross-Party meetings to look into a variety of issues with Officers. The reports produced will then go back to Cabinet and Full Council for their discussion/approval of actions that need to be taken:

A] Housing Member Group for ET hasn't met since 5th June. There was to be a meeting on 23rd June to further this work, but this was postponed and a new date has still not been agreed.

B] Health and Social Care Task and Finish Group for ET hasn't met since the second meeting of this group took place on 15th June. The meeting planned 10th July meeting to continue its work has still not happened!

C] River Water Quality Task and Finish Group for PB and ET

This group context and remit is:

- To recognise the range of sources that contribute to the pollution of water ways include highways run-off and agriculture.
- It's defined remit is focused on pollution as a result of sewage to help ensure that they have the greatest impact through their work.
- We may recommend further work into these other areas.

As we reported last month we are in a period of evidence-gathering and the next steps are

1. Site visit to a water treatment site on 5th October....that unfortunately Peter and myself are away for!
2. Meeting and questions with Severn Trent Water
3. Meeting and questions with the Environment Agency

We are now looking for a time to get the group together to review the findings so far and the emerging insights, key issues, conclusions and recommendations to date, in the run in to drafting the report for the Scrutiny Committee meeting in November.

It seems our work in this group is all very timely and indeed Severn Trent have just begun some works improvement to the Water Treatment premises just off Harris Croft in Wem.

D] Rural Proofing in Health and Care Task and Finish Group for ET

As it seeks to bring a report back to the Health and Social Care Scrutiny Committee the Task and Finish Group is beginning to write up the report for the Health and Care Scrutiny Committee. A day's session was held on 22nd September and was intended to be the final one. It provided the opportunity to review all the evidence heard and then based upon this we formed our recommendations. Now a report will be drafted, submitted back to yourselves in October for revisions and then signed off so that it can be submitted to Health Overview and Social Care Committee (or HOSC) in November.

Shropshire Council Training/Development Sessions:

There have been none arranged since our December report.

Shropshire Council Committees:

Northern Planning Committee for ET. The next meeting of this committee was to have been on Tuesday 15th September at Shirehall, but this was cancelled. This committee next meets on 10th October. Unfortunately for ET (and ourselves in the Wem Division) he has lost his seat on this committee because there was a change in the political balance/make-up of Shropshire Council with the Liberal Democrats winning the W.....seat from the Conservatives in a recent By-Election, that resulted in the Independent seat on this committee being reallocated to the Liberal Democrats. This means we cannot report on this important committee for ourselves, as we have been doing in these monthly reports.

People Overview Committee for PB. There have been no further meetings since that reported on last month.

Standards Sub Committee – also no further meetings of this committee since we reported last month.

Regarding Whixall Parish, our activity this last month has been:

Our activity in the Parish, at the point of writing, has been has been:

1. making a site visit to help a resident with Pre-Application advice to SC Planners
2. picking up general concerns about the impact on ecology of an advertised land sale

We continue to monitor these and any other issues brought to our attention regularly.

Regarding other matters of local concern to Whixall Parish that we are involved in:

1. The White Horse in Wem – Since it's purchase on 13th July by Shropshire Council there has still been no further action to report, other than SC Officers are preparing to show us both around and have discussions with us. We understand that the team from SC preparing to draw up plans have all been reallocated, for the time being, to looking at other public buildings in Shropshire that may have RAAC somewhere in their structures - such as have been hearing about Whitchurch Civic Centre. Hence the delay on White Horse matters.

2. Discussion matters regarding the pilot project between Shropshire Council and Wem Economic Forum/Town Council

Our concern remains.... that SC do not forget this Market Town Regeneration 'pilot project' that was being heralded by SC between us all. This is a jointly hosted networking event by Wem Rural PC and Wem Town Council at Wem Town Hall on 23rd October (6-8pm) with the theme 'Healthy Leadership'. Flyers have been circulating about this and **we have again copied one at the bottom of this report. DO ENCOURAGE SUPPORT FOR THIS INITIATIVE WHERE YOU CAN.** It is being

supported and attended by The High Sherriff, and Lord Lieutenant of Shropshire, as well as having a speaker Samantha Brettell. As we said last month registration for this event is at www.wembusinesspartnership.co.uk. We need to maintain our momentum if we are to engage local employers for 'Investing in Wem' and to maintain our unity as a Shropshire, Parish and Town Council organising body. We will continue to press where we can for some progress in this important project to help boost our town/areas economic fortunes.

3. **Friends of Whitchurch Road Cemetery** - The summer openings and work done around the cemetery were reviewed Chapel at their recent meeting on Wednesday 27th September at 6.00pm in the Parish Church Hall, from which ET will circulate minutes for all those interested, as he was unable to attend on this occasion.
4. **Wem Area Climate Action (WACA)** – This group continues to be very active and held a social meeting on 23rd August at 2pm consisting of a visit to "The Hollies", Souldon, SY4 5RT [An Agroforestry Project run by Peter Aspin www.soilvaspin.org.uk] followed by refreshments at Cllr Len Staines' home at Barkers Green. Their latest meeting was on Wednesday 13th September at Wem Senior Club that ET unfortunately couldn't attend but from which ET can circulate minutes for all those interested. If any other Councillors can join myself in attending these meetings, this would be appreciated.
5. **North Salop Wheelers ('Wheelers')** – Matters continue to develop steadily, as we have been reporting, but as we have been saying over the last few months....the key thing holding things back is their need for drivers. If you know of any who might be interested in helping – even in a small way, then do let them/us know.
6. **The Wemian** – The position is the same as recently reported. This is still in abeyance but informal discussions are being had and hopefully something can be worked out soon now amongst those showing an interest in its revival.
7. **Whitchurch Food Bank** – Our local Foodbank has been operating for 10 years and they continue to be as busy as ever! Although they are based in Whitchurch, they continue to cover the people of Wem and also serve our wide rural area. From April 2022 to March 2023 they gave out 923 emergency parcels in the area covered by Whitchurch Foodbank. This means that 2115 people were fed, of which 778 were children. Your support means a lot and you can find places all over our area that have collection bins (such as local churches and Wem Co-op) that are then sent onto the Foodbank Centre in Whitchurch.
8. **And Finally.....**we wanted to let you know about an additional one-off event that needs supporting in Wem Town Hall on the afternoon of 11th October. [see the advertising poster attached]. It is to **Launch Crowdfund Shropshire**. The event is for the whole county but SC have chosen Wem Town Hall because it is a community venue and a good fit with the aim of the project/launch event. All elected members are being invited to the event and Cllr Lezley Picton is due to say a few words at the event as the Leader of SC.

Why is this happening? Shropshire Council is working with Shropshire Voluntary and Community Sector Assembly and key partners to launch a civic crowd funding platform – Crowdfund Shropshire. We know how difficult it has become for small groups to access funding opportunities. Opportunities are so often pitched at large organisations with expert bid writers.

What is Crowd Funding? Civic crowdfunding works by attracting large funds/investment and channelling them into smaller community-led projects and activities. Core grants are matched with public donations. The UK Shared Prosperity Communities and Place Fund (UKSPF) has allowed the project to be launched. Community groups will be able to pitch ideas online, within a framework of strategic objectives. For example we could re-launch a Wem Good Neighbours scheme or start a Wem's Men in Sheds group, etc.

It then becomes clear which projects have community buy-in by how many pledges are made. On average for every £1 of public funding, £3 is raised in public donations. This generates more information on the issues that are really important to people in Shropshire. By making people aware of the ambitions of our local communities, and what communities need, we can encourage local giving and build 'the crowd' support from individuals, businesses, funding bodies... and many, many more.

Has this process seen a good response elsewhere? The approach is in place in 40 other local authority areas. It has been shown to strengthen community cohesion and resilience, build capacity and skills among the community and improve the health and well-being of participants.

Peter and I really hope you will be available to come to the event if you are available. Please do let our local community groups know and don't hesitate to get in touch if you have any questions. It is 13:40ish for a 2pm start on 11th October. You will see it being promoting over the coming days and people will be able to book here:

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/crowdfund-shropshire-launch-tickets-726144597037?aff=oddtcreator>

[If people can't make the 11th we will be holding follow up workshops plus an event for town and parish councils through November]

Hopefully this brings you up to date as regards what is happening in both town and county! As we have said, if more information is needed or there are things that are unclear, let us know.

All good wishes,

Peter Broomhall and Edward Towers

Shropshire County Councillors for the Wem, Wem Rural & Whixall Division

Date: 30th September 2023

Invitation

Launching Crowdfund Shropshire

- Do you have a an idea for a community project or activity?
- Do you need a little investment to roll out or expand a project?
- Are you a volunteer or community leader keen to make a difference?

Come along and find out more...

Wem Town Hall

Wednesday
11th October

2pm

Online attendance tbc

Please book your place

Book your place here: <https://forms.office.com/e/KmA0CWEpHg>



Spacehive



Funded by FullFibre FIBRE HEROES

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FREE BUSINESS NETWORKING

To help support local businesses Wem Rural Parish Council, along with Wem Town Council and Wem Town Hall is holding a Business Networking Event. The theme for the event is **Healthy Leadership** and the key speaker is Samantha Brettell. There will be plenty of time to network with other businesses, take part in some table-top consultation and find out more about future events.

23rd October 2023

6-8pm

Wem Town Hall
High St, Wem
SY4 5DG

KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Samantha Brettell DL has over 25-years military experience, having recently retired from full time service in the Army. She now runs a successful consultancy business, helping businesses promote healthy leadership and wellbeing within their organisations.



We will be joined by two special guests:

- ▶▶▶ **His Majesty's Lord Lieutenant Mrs Anna Turner**
- ▶▶▶ **High Sheriff of Shropshire Mandy Thorn MBE DL**

Businesses are invited to bring a sample of products and/or literature for display - don't forget your business cards!

Register online at www.wembusinesspartnership.co.uk