

AYMESTREY PARISH COUNCIL WARD COUNCILLOR REPORT JAN 2022

I have spoken to Bruce Evans of Herefordshire Council regarding the bank of the River Lugg moving closer to the highway. He is in discussion with Balfour Beatty about this and I hope to have an update as soon as possible.

I have not seen a planning application yet from Smokey Quarry but as planning are so far behind with applications it may have come in and not yet been put onto the website. Again, I will chase before the next meeting. At present all comments on outstanding applications are being extended to at least 31st January. This may be extended again

Core Strategy 2021-2041: The first major round of public consultation on the Core Strategy Update will be open from 17 January – 28 February. This consultation will be conducted primarily online due to the large amount of inter-related documentation which is involved. However hard copies are provided for public access in all our county libraries and can be provided elsewhere upon request.

This is a public consultation on the overarching policy options for the county's planning policy framework out to 2041 and clearly needs to address the issues communities have experienced in operating over the last 6 years within the 2015 policy framework. I am attending a briefing on this on the 1st February.

Just before Xmas Eve a resident advised me of a sunken drain in a dangerous position on the A4110 just south of the village. I did manage to contact the Emergency team and it was coned off. I am really grateful to the resident as if ignored this could have resulted in an accident.

Our Scrutiny Committees during January are considering the administration's budget proposals. These scrutiny meetings will be held via Zoom as we will be making no decisions, only recommendations. All of our public meetings can be viewed on You tube if you wish to see them! At present the Administration are proposing a 2.99% Council Tax increase, which includes a ring fenced 1% for Adult Social Care, however this figure might change at the February Full Council meeting if an opposition group tables any amendment which is supported by the majority of councillors.

The draft Balfour Beatty Annual Plan has been circulated to ward members and at present I can see only one section of road that is to be resurfaced or surface dressed in Mortimer ward and that is in Coombe. There are however numerous drainage schemes and bridge work. I will be attending a Zoom meeting on the 19th Jan with BB and hope to advise you after that where the schemes are taking place. I am not expecting much change from their draft plan which does include some drainage work in Aymestrey Parish but I will send each parish a copy of the plan once it has been finalised.

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