

6**Town Councillors**

Cllr. Murphy – reported attending the WALC Briefing Day at Wellesbourne, the Community Forum at Ilmington and spent an enjoyable evening helping to raise funds for the Wool Fair at their Barn Dance. Unfortunately, the recycling bins at The Sheldon Bosley Hub will be removed and added that the Hub are still awaiting a reply from SDC in response to their bid not to increase their business rates.

Cllr. Rathkey – commented on a letter received from a Shipston resident on the application for the proposed development on the Stratford Road. He noted that when published, the Core Strategy would undoubtedly require that up to 300 houses would be needed in Shipston during the next 20 years and that these would have to go on greenfield sites as there are no brownfield sites in Shipston suitable for development.

Cllr. Cooper – reported attending the Neighbourhood Plan consultation meetings and helping the Mayor judge the Climate Challenge competition where teams were asked to develop creativity and innovation in tackling real-life environmental issues.

Cllr. Warner – reported:

- Attending the Community Forum and a meeting with Turbine Blading discussing the factory closure.
- Was concerned on the number of cigarette ends outside a public house in Church Street. The TC will write to all public houses in Shipston asking if they can ensure the footpaths outside their premises are kept clear of cigarette ends.
- Unfortunately, the travel agent in Shipston has ceased trading.
- Alerted the council that there had been a robbery at the High School, some musical instruments were stolen.
- One of residents in Rainbow Fields has apparently been without water for 15 days, waiting for Orbit to come and resolve the matter.
- Although Jeff Morris from Highways has informed the council that the drains in Station Road, Darlingscote Road and Telegraph Street have been jet washed they still appear to be blocked.
- Parking on the corner of The Driftway by parents continues to cause problems, the TC will write to the Primary School.

Cllr. Munden – is concerned with mud that is being left on Mayo Road from the ground works in progress at the Rugby Club.

Cllr. A Ivens – joined in with the fun at the Barn Dance and the March litter pick.

Cllr. Jelf – joined fellow councillors at the Neighbourhood consultation meeting.

Cllr. Healey –

- Attended the Community Forum in Ilmington and the Turbine Blading meeting.
- Cllr Healey is helping to investigate a drainage problem at the Shoulderway Lane allotment site; and asked if Orbit are responsible for any snow clearing in the town?
- A resident has reported parked vehicles causing an obstruction opposite their driveway. It was agreed that the best course of action is for the resident to contact the Police.
- In answer to Cllr Healey's question the General Power of Competence supersedes the Section 137 expenditure allowance.

Cllr. Vial – chaired the planning meeting which he would report on later in the agenda.

Cllr. Fay Ivens – reported:

- Attended the WALC briefing day, NP and Turbine Blading consultation meetings.
- The street light petition is doing well but more signatures are needed to meet the 5,000 requirement to put the petition through.
- Enjoyed the Wool Fair Barn Dance pleased that almost £500 was raised towards this year's event.
- Represented STC at WCC's Annual Dinner and had her final 'Meet the Mayor' session at the Primary School. The Mayor has thoroughly enjoyed meeting the pupils and listening to their ideas which could perhaps be of some benefit to the Neighbourhood Plan.
- Along with Cllr Cooper judged the Climate Challenge competition adding that all the teams that took part had worked extremely hard and had produced some very innovative ideas.

- The Mayor is very concerned that an increased number of households have reported that they have not received a copy of The Forum this month. The Forum editor noted that staff at The Herald are aware of this and that one of the delivery people have lost their job. There was discussion as to whether the council should employ someone independently to deliver the Forum but Cllr Cooper commented we have an extremely competitive price for delivery from the paper and should continue to try and improve the situation.

County Council

CC – Cllr. Saint – reported:

- Since February's meeting the potholes in Station Road have been repaired; however Cllr Vial commented that the standard of the repair seems poor.
- Jeff Morris seems unable to track down the three jettors that Paul Cowley says are available to jet wash the blocked drains.
- There is a firm decision to start the street light 'switch off' in Shipston from 1st April. Cllr Saint added that any issues relating to this will be taken individually as they arise. The Mayor asked who the council should present the street light petition to. Cllr Saint said he was happy to present the petition to the full council, if the requisite number of signatures is secured, at their next meeting on Thursday 21st March.
- CrimeStoppers – are taking an interest in the current trend of CAT thefts. Rewards can be offered for any evidence reported; contact telephone number 0800 555111.
- Trading Standards are reporting the latest scam; refunds are supposedly available from HMRC in relation to the new benefit changes. You may be asked to provide your bank details, please do not respond.
- From 31st March Nottinghamshire County Council services will no longer have the contract for Meals on Wheels. Coventry City Council will be the new provider from 1st April. This is an extremely important service, for some people this is the only personal contact they have during the day. Cllr Cooper asked if the prices would increase with a new provider. Cllr Saint will look in to the matter.
- On the change in the team running the Community Forums. Lizzie Price has moved to another region with Amanda Wilson-Patterson taking her position.
- The Mayor thanked Cllr Saint for re-instating the footprints at the Primary School. Cllr Munden added that the Stratford Road is still flooding and his concerns with potential safety issues where white lines on the road surface have faded.

District Council

SDC – Cllr. Cheney – in his absence his report was read out by the Town Mayor:

1) The District Council confirmed at its last meeting that there should be a substantial reduction in the number of District Councillors, from 54 to about 36, these Councillors to all be elected on single member wards if at all possible. The final details to follow a review by the Local Government Boundary Commission; this review has now started. District Councillors will all be elected on the new arrangements in 2015 when there will be an 'all up' election of District Councillors. I support this move as I feel it will lead to a more efficient District Council with more direct relationship between individual Councillors and their electorate. For Shipston this should mean the town will have two district council wards. It will also mean that the LGBC will look at creating wards for the Town Council.

2) I note that most of the lights in the Bridge Car Park are now working but one that was previously working is now out! I have reported this to SDC.

3) The Leader of the District Council has announced the Council hope to have the Core Strategy planning policy document ready for submission in July of this year, although a timetable for this has not been published yet. This should mean that there would be a Core Strategy Policy in place by early 2014. It is still unclear what the housing numbers for the Stratford District will be, I am told there should be a decision on this critical figure by June. There is still no decision on the legal challenge mounted by the District Council to the decision of the Inspector at the Shottery Inquiry. All these outstanding issues lead to a very unsatisfactory situation for Shipston as far as planning is concerned in my view. I can assure you that I am pressing the Council to move forward on these matters as quickly as possible. I do think it would help if discussions at the District Council on these planning matters were held in the public arena; this is also something I have been pursuing at the Council.

4) I have supported the Sheldon Hub committee in their successful request for the District Council to continue allowing them an 80% discount on the Business Rates that could be charged. The Sheldon Hub is a valuable community resource and deserves our support.

SDC – Cllr. Kenner – reported:

- On meeting with GE representatives on the possible closure of Turbine Blading.
- Figures show that the cost of keeping the street lights on only amounts to £2.50 per household per year. Cllr Kenner along with other councillors would like to see this small budget cut taken elsewhere.
- Has received a number of complaints with the length of time Orbit is taking to carrying out repairs on their properties. Cllr. Kenner is seeking a meeting with Orbit to discuss the situation.
- At the Saturday Surgery there seemed to be strong support for the idea of re-instating regular markets in the town.
- Met with Stephen Miles to discuss the Neighbourhood Plan and will be attending the next steering group meeting. It was agreed there is still a need for more community engagement.
- Concerned on the impact of the new bedroom tax and fears some householders may lose their homes.
- Hopes that SDC will re-consider participating in the new mortgage scheme helping young people to purchase their first home.
- Core Strategy – the area profile for Shipston includes; support for a 6th form at the High School, safety issues at the Portobello Crossroads, additional football pitches, promotion of tourism, improvement to shopping facilities and the enlargement of the town centre boundary to include new build.

Shipston Forum

Forum Editor reported:

- During the purdah period due to the coming County Council election, columns from WCC and SDC cllrs would not be personalised
- The front page of the April issue is likely to include the ongoing road safety campaign and possibly the new Youth Shelter
- Advice was sought concerning a “Crimestoppers” advert – STC confirmed this was appropriate

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Open Forum for Parishioners

- Karen Barker of River Way gave her views on the development of the land at Stratford Road, adjacent to River Way.
- Tricia Duncan of River Way considered that houses have been moved further onto the flood plain, asking who is responsible if the area is flooded.
- Brian Gibson of River Way gave his views on the development, stating that they should not be built on a green field site. Cllr Vial noted that the site already had outline permission, and that it was only possible to comment on design issues at this stage.
- A request was made that the developer meets with residents to discuss placement of the play area and the design of the basement levels of the houses closest to the river. The developer commented that in his view the development would blend in
- Pete Smith, resident – commented:
 - Why do residents in new houses, complain about loss of view when subsequent new homes are built adjacent to them
 - Forum non-delivery needs to be urgently sorted out
 - Who monitors what goes in the New Clark House noticeboard? (refer to comms group)
 - The dead tree in Orchard close due to felled – when will Orbit cut it down?
 - Heard rumours about a Town Manager – would prefer a parking attendant, giving examples of near misses
 - Considered that unblocking drains is more important than the changes planned for Sheep Street – the man holes covers in West Street are badly damaged, every time a vehicle drives over them it makes a loud clanging noise that can be heard in his house.

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Neighbourhood Plan

Cllr Cooper noted that two NP meetings took place during the last month, the current priority is to plan how to effectively engage with the community and local groups – an update on progress will be given at the April meeting.

9	<p><u>Planning Matters</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> NEW PLANNING APPLICATIONS – discussed at Planning Working Group meeting <i>These applications discussed by the Planning Working Group actioned using standing order: Section 3b(xv)</i> 13/00294/REM land at Stratford Road - Submission of reserved matters (appearance, layout, landscaping and scale) pursuant to planning permission ref: 11/00728/OUT – PWG recommendation: Support Cllr Vial proposed support, seconded Cllr Rathkey – vote 7 for, 2 against, 1 abstention – motion carried 13/00352/TEL56 - STREET RECORD Market Place - Install of 1 x broadband cabinet (PCP002) S/O 12 High St – PWG recommendation: No representation, with comments – proposed Cllr Vial, seconded Cllr Jelf – unanimously agreed 13/00327/TREE - West Croft, Old Road - T1: Yew - remove 2 branches - G1: Western red cedar no 2- trim branches PWG recommendation: No representation – proposed Cllr Vial, seconded Cllr Healey – unanimously agreed 13/00253/FUL - 4 Simpson Road - Demolition of existing single storey side extension. Construction of proposed two storey side extension and single storey rear extension. PWG recommendation: No representation – proposed Cllr Vial, seconded Cllr Rathkey – unanimously agreed 13/0027/FUL – Sports Club, London Rd – Erection of 8 – 15m flood lights to football pitch PWG recommendation: Support – proposed Cllr Vial, seconded Cllr Rathkey – unanimous, 2 cllrs who had declared an interest had left the room and did not vote NEW PLANNING APPLICATIONS 13/00405 – 72 Furze Hill Road – Proposed chimney to gable Following discussion, Cllr Vial proposed no representations, seconded Cllr Cooper – unanimously agreed It was noted that the next planning meeting would take place on 25th March PLANNING DECISIONS BY DISTRICT OR COUNTY COUNCIL 12/02456/FUL – 43 London Road – Demolition of existing dwelling, erection of six new dwellings, 3 carports and new vehicular access onto London Road – Permission Refused 	
10	<p><u>Shipston Charities</u></p> <p>Mr James Little gave explanation of the work of charities and asked that STC confirm the two nominees, himself and Mr Richard Taylor as trustees of the group, Cllr Rathkey, proposed that Mr Little and Mr Taylor be confirmed as trustees to the Shipston Charities Group for four years – from 11th March 2013, seconded Cllr F Ivens – vote – 8 for – 2 abstentions – motion carried</p>	
11	<p><u>New Scout Hut</u></p> <p>The Town Council have been asked to sign an agreement, as landowners, between SDC and the Scouts, following discussion Cllr Cooper proposed that STC should sign the document subject to checking by the STC solicitor, seconded Cllr Murphy – unanimously agreed</p>	
12	<p><u>General Purposes Working Group</u></p> <p>In the absence of the chair of GPWG, Cllr F Ivens introduced the report:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Road Safety in Shipston – Kill your speed posters are now in place on: Stratford Road; Mayo Road and Tilemans Lane, a traffic survey will take place on Stratford Road before Easter. The Clerk wrote to Cllr Saint to bid for funding from his “Road Safety Fund”, funding will not be available until the financial year 2014/2015. Following discussion Cllr F Ivens proposed that STC write to SDC and the developers of the 2 sites on Stratford Road to request funding for 30mph signs at the entrance to the town, seconded Cllr Healey – unanimously agreed Cllr F Ivens proposed that in the interim STC hire a 30 mph flashing sign to be placed on Stratford Road towards traffic entering the town at a cost of £400 for twelve months, seconded Cllr Jelf – unanimously agreed Pot Hole survey – cllrs were asked to volunteer to take a section of the town and survey for potholes, reporting back to the clerk by 25th March, 2013 – the results to go to WCC Highways Cllr Ivens reported that the drainage work at Shoulderway allotments had been carried out A recommendation to purchase a metal storage building was discussed, Cllr Jelf proposed that the building be purchased at a cost of £559.95, seconded Cllr F Ivens – vote 9 for, 1 against 	

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Financial Matters

Cllr A Ivens proposed that all invoices be paid, seconded Cllr Vial – **unanimously agreed**

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Correspondence

No matters raised

Finale

The Town Mayor noted that the next meeting will be held on Monday 8th April, 2013 in New Clark House commencing at 7.00 pm.

The Town Mayor thanked fellow councillors, press and public for their attendance and closed the meeting at 9.30 pm.

Signed.....

Date.....

Councillor Mrs F Ivens
Town Mayor
Shipston on Stour Town Council