

## **CABINET 5 OCTOBER 2020**

### **PUBLIC QUESTION TIME**

#### **1. Question from Bernard Bentick**

The Government published a White Paper on Investment to reduce motor traffic and increase journeys by walking & cycling in 2017, with a further update in 2020. The Shrewsbury Big Town Plan provides for Transport Hubs & increased use of walking, cycling & public transport. The last Shropshire CC Meeting approved a motion to implement the 'School Streets' Initiative and to facilitate cycling & walking, where this is not possible, by September 2020. Recently, The Government has instructed Councils to implement facilities to promote social distancing, due to the Covid 19 Pandemic. What has Shropshire CC implemented to achieve these goals in Shropshire generally and particularly in my area of residence, Meole Brace? What plans are there specifically to implement the School Streets Initiative, with timescales and dates for completion? What is the current Capital Expenditure Plan to achieve these goals for Shropshire and in Meole Brace for 2020/21?

**Response provided by Cllr Peter Nutting, Leader of the Council (on behalf of Steve Davenport, Portfolio Holder for Highways and Transport)**

The issue of school streets was addressed within the report which recently went to council on 20mph zones and will be considered as part of a holistic approach to that project.

With regards to measures to promote social distancing the council has implemented a variety of measures in several towns to widen footways and close roads for full pedestrianised measures. In determining the nature of these measures we have closely followed guidance issued by the Department for Transport. Measures have been implemented in the following towns Bishops Castle, Bridgnorth, Church Stretton, Ellesmere, Ludlow, Market Drayton, Much Wenlock, Oswestry, Shrewsbury, Whitchurch and the council has received a lot of positive feedback on the measures implemented.

A final capital expenditure or programme for walking and cycling measures have not yet been set for this year as the council is awaiting the results of a significant bid to Government for a pot of additional funding made available to support these measures for delivery this year and so may be subject to change. There is currently no capital expenditure planned to achieve these measures in Meole Brace in 2020/21.

#### **2. Question from John Box, Shropshire Wildlife Trust Honorary Conservation Adviser**

I would like to congratulate Councillor Picton and Clare Featherstone and her colleagues both for their foresight in initiating the recent programme of designating

Local Nature Reserves and for their determination to get this first phase of LNRs designated during these difficult times for all of us. These new designations will add to the suite of excellent Local Nature Reserves already designated in Shropshire. Local Nature Reserves are very important places for both people and wildlife and allow local residents to get involved with wildlife at first hand. The paper on LNRs for Cabinet deals with the situation in respect of a further four sites which could be proposed as LNRs in the future: Severn Valley Country Park and Eardington Quarry where completed management plans are awaited before designation can be pursued, and Monkmoor and Copthorne Park which are listed for transfer to Shrewsbury Town Council. What indicative timescales are envisaged for these four potential LNRs?

**Response provided by Cllr Lezley Picton, Portfolio Holder for Culture, Leisure, Waste and Communication**

Thank you for your support for Local Nature Reserves. The process for designating LNR can be time consuming and, with visitor numbers on our Country Parks estimating to have doubled since Covid-19, making sure our parks are safe and well maintained has taken precedence since March. However, we would look to bring further areas into LNR designation in 2021/22.