

## **COUNCIL 29 FEBRUARY 2024**

### **MEMBER QUESTIONS**

#### **Question from Councillor Vivienne Parry**

Ludford Bridge is one of the oldest in Ludlow it was not built to take heavy lorries and trucks of the size we have now.

Many people are asking if we can do something about this because we once again have lost four large top stones from the main part of the parapet which seem to have dropped into the river on one side. Is it possible to have signs erected further out on the end of the A49 into Overton Rd telling the drivers that the bridge is not suitable for HGV vehicles over a certain weight and signs on the other main roads into town giving the weight and other possible way that can be used.

I know that if this bridge should collapse this would make life hard for people driving around the town, locals and visitors use this way into the town centre this is an important route to other parts of the town a few years ago Overton Road was closed for a collapsed wall it meant long queues, traffic lights causing delays.

I know that the bridge is checked every year but the people who have approached me would like something done now, signs are cheaper than repairs if this beautiful bridge collapsed the town would suffer badly, shops, public houses and businesses would be affected.

#### **Response from Councillor Dan Morris, Portfolio Holder for Highways**

#### **RESPONSE TO FOLLOW**

#### **Question from Councillor David Vasmer**

At the Economy and Environment Scrutiny Committee Shrewsbury Pool Call-in on Friday 9<sup>th</sup> February, any real debate about what should or should not be included in a consultation was prevented as a result of an extremely rigid interpretation of the call-in notice.

Would the Leader of the Council support amendments to the constitution to allow full consideration of call-ins and the issues they raise? Secondly, would she support the setting up of a Task and Finish Group, under the aegis of the Transformation and Improvement Scrutiny Committee, to review provisions for the conduct of call-ins?

#### **Response from Councillor Lezley Picton, Leader and Portfolio Holder for Policy and Strategy, Improvement and Communications**

Overview and Scrutiny is of course not an executive function and therefore it is not something I want to overly interfere with. However, I, along with my fellow Group

Leaders are involved in the expanded Scrutiny Chairs meeting with has been a success in promoting a more collaborative approach to the scrutiny function and so I am willing to consider this request.

Before I do though I want to comment briefly on Cllr Vasmer's reference to "an extremely rigid interpretation of the call-in notice". I wasn't at the meeting, but as I understand the process generally an Overview and Scrutiny Committee can review an executive decision and request that it be reconsidered. The Constitution, agreed by full Council, requires that reasons are given in the call-in notice as to why the decision should be reconsidered and it is right that the debate of the Committee should be limited to those reasons so that it remains appropriately structured. It wasn't so much a "rigid interpretation" as a re-statement of what the call-in notice actually stated.

Currently the requirement for articulated reasons is the only limitation on the call-in process and I would be reluctant to see that removed. However, I do accept that it would be helpful for this issue to be considered in more detail and I intend to ask the Monitoring Officer in conjunction with the Statutory Scrutiny Officer to review the current arrangements, look at good practice elsewhere, consult with the Centre for Governance and Scrutiny and prepare a report to be considered, not by a Task and Finish Group, which I consider to be unnecessary, but by the Scrutiny Chairs Group before bringing a recommendation back to this Council."