

**CABINET**  
**4 DECEMBER 2024**  
**MEMBERS' QUESTIONS**

**Alex Wagner**

Pressure on Shropshire Council's finances is reducing critical support to vulnerable people. Would the Portfolio Holder for Adult Social Care advise how Shrewsbury rough sleepers, who require specialised medical services, can currently access the resources they need, as their dedicated weekly Medical clinic ceased at the end of October 2024?

**Julian Dean**

Since Shropshire Council declared a climate emergency, what additional offsetting measures (beyond any identified in existing arrangement such as those to do with recycling) have been identified that can demonstrably offset the council's greenhouse gas emissions and what emissions, in tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub>e, have been offset that would not otherwise have been offset? What has this cost over this same period?

**Rosemary Dartnall**

*Shropshire Council's determination to go ahead with the NWRR project has long presented a threat to the council. In recent months Conservative portfolio holders have repeatedly relied on vague uttered funding promises and continued with spending, even exceeding delegated sums approved by council. Despite requests from opposition councillors to pause the project until clarity about funding was available, tens of millions of pounds have been spent.*

*This week has shown the external auditors Grant Thornton, warn of recklessness in the council's approach to this financially and environmentally expensive project, classifying NWRR governance as high risk to the council. And, yesterday a shocking new report was added to the planning portal. This report corrects the projected 62 year life carbon for the proposed road – it is no longer 49,000 tonnes – but has increased by more than 50% to just under 77,000 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions. The report makes clear any attempt at mitigation for the carbon emitted cannot be achieved by 2030 and a new deadline of 2050 is suggested. The cost of mitigation has soared from £1.4m to £8.4m: an extra £7m of capital casually notified via a planning report. This project is out of control, governed outside ideal standards of democracy and should be paused immediately.*

*Will the portfolio holder confirm he will take immediate action to halt all spending and all activity related to the NWRR until this environmentally and financially extortionate project can be transparently assessed by elected members on behalf of the residents they represent?*

**Bernie Bentick**

Shropshire Council declared a climate emergency 2019 and in December 2020 a Corporate Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan was adopted, aiming for Net Zero Carbon Emissions by 2030.

It is therefore shocking that Shropshire Council's Trees Department decided to fell a healthy mature Oak tree on a public grass verge in Meole Village on the 25<sup>th</sup> October 2024, without notice, which I consider to be an act of environmental vandalism.

After incredulous Meole neighbours and I asked for an explanation, we were told that a Trees Officer ordered the felling of the native Oak tree on Washford Road, in preference to an adjacent (foreign) Sweet Chestnut tree, when there was said to be insufficient space between them, after repeated requests by a single resident to fell the Oak. The only residents consulted about the felling were those few whose properties were directly behind the grass verge and there was no consultation with the wider Meole Village residents, local Community Groups or myself as Councillor, which I and Meole residents consider completely unacceptable.

Will the Portfolio Holder commit to a full investigation, with the aim of preventing a recurrence of healthy indigenous trees being felled, without consultation with residents of the affected Electoral Ward, local Community Groups and the local Councillor?

Will the Portfolio Holder also please instruct the replacement of the Oak by another Oak this winter, at a site to be agreed with residents, in Meole Village?