

BRIDGNORTH WEST & TASLEY ELECTORAL DIVISION

Councillor Julia Buckley
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January 2023

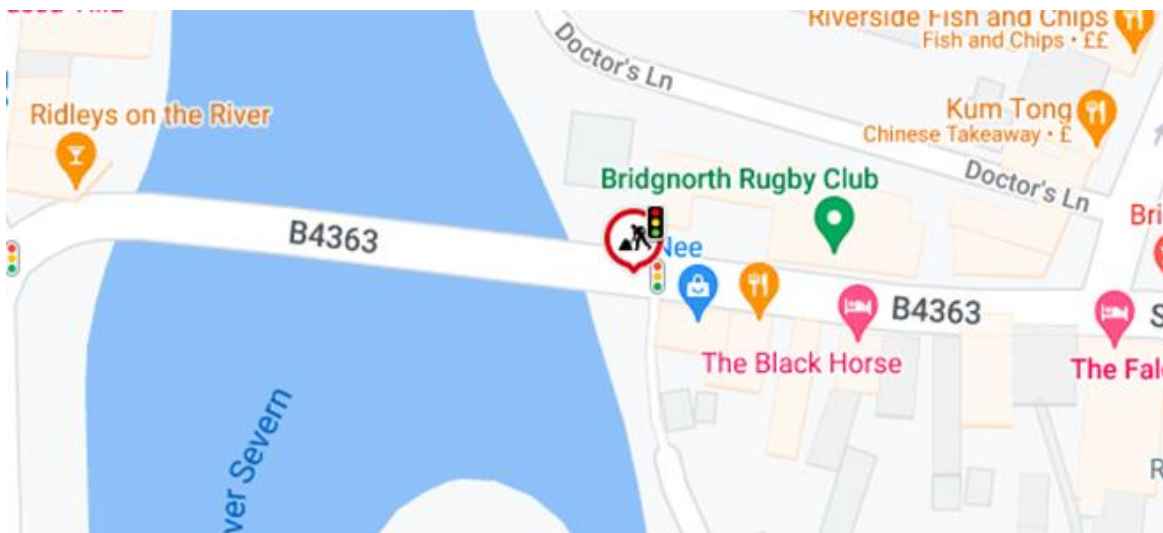
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Shropshire Councillor Report to Bridgnorth Town Council, 17 January 2023

- On 13 December 2022 I attended the Southern Planning Committee to speak against the **Smithfield Care Home application** (21/01963/FUL). Upon arrival we were informed that the item would be deferred to a future meeting. Outside the meeting I spoke at length to the applicant and vendor to express the strength of feeling in the town against the proposal. We have since been informed that the application has now been withdrawn and the applicant's contract to purchase the land having ended.: https://pa.shropshire.gov.uk/online-applications/files/17D3B7D36BF0B5F9680B65B8035E7F4D/pdf/21_01963_FUL-APPLICATION_WITHDRAWN_NOTIFICATION-4840764.pdf).
- On 14 December 2022 I attended the Shropshire Council Cabinet meeting at which the decision was taken to hand back the lease of running **Acton Scott Working Museum**, back to the Acton Family, at a total cost of nearly £1m, with the hope of the family re-opening the farm.
- Over New Year there was a **licensing consultation for Costa Coffee** on Postern gate – seeking permission to put tables and chairs on the congested footpath. Neither Rachel or I were informed about this, which ended on 9 January. We have submitted comments and requested that local members be informed in future.
- Over the last month Shropshire Council has been busy preparing its budgetary proposals for 2023-24. The administration has put forward plans for £50m of cuts to any services not deemed “mandatory”. Residents, organisations and representatives are encouraged to **respond to the budget consultation until 30 January**, giving your views on the different proposals. You can do so online here: <https://www.shropshire.gov.uk/council-budgets-and-spending/> or you can pop into the library and request a paper version if preferred.
- Each of the opposition parties has put forward their **alternative budget proposals** for consideration which include options such as: cancelling the North West Relief Road; countywide “20 is plenty”; additional public transport; Council Tax freeze for those on benefits etc. These proposals will be considered at cabinet on 18 January and voted at Full Council on 2 March 2023.

- On 11 January 2023 the **Footbridge Farm Poultry Units Appeal** was held at Shirehall. I attended and spoke on behalf of residents who have been very concerned about the potential environmental impacts. I can update on 17 January.
- Long awaited **repairs to our River bridge** as well as installing a new pedestrian crossing and cables on Bridge street, mean there will be temporary traffic lights in place 9.30am – 3pm, 16-20 January. See: <https://one.network/?GB132228755>



- Also under discussion at cabinet on 18 January is the proposal **to charge a fee for road closures** and events/temporary traffic regulation orders on the highway.
- On 10 January it was announced that Shropshire will receive £12.4m for **“Levelling Up Funding”** and could be available for grant applications for economic investments in 2023-24. Details TBC.
- The **Local Government Boundary Commission** for England (LGBCE) has launched the consultation process to review Shropshire Council’s electoral division boundaries. Submissions are invited until 30 January, after which the draft proposals will be published with a further opportunity to comment until July 2023 before the final boundaries are published in September:
[Local Government Boundary Commission for England Consultation Portal \(lgbce.org.uk\)](http://lgbce.org.uk) The proposals will move towards single member divisions and reduce Bridgnorth’s 4 Shropshire divisions to 3, reflecting the new average number of electors. A draft proposal suggests “Bridgnorth East” over the river; “Bridgnorth West” to include Town West and Tasley; and “Bridgnorth Central” to include Town Castle and Town East to the River boundary. BTC is invited to comment on the preferred division maps.

Yours sincerely



Councillor Julia Buckley
Shropshire Councillor for Bridgnorth West & Tasley

