

SHROPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCILLOR REPORT

Division: Highley, Billingsley, Middleton Scriven, Glazeley & Deuxhill

SUMMARY OF ACTIVITY – MAY 2026

May has been a quieter month for new resident casework, likely helped by two bank holidays and the excellent weather. The focus has been on closing long-running issues where possible, progressing open matters, and preparing for June follow-up meetings.

Key activity this month included resolving the second 125 bus timetable issue I have taken forward since being elected, initiating a Highways inspection of the Netherton Lane / Bynd Lane ford, progressing road signage and 20mph concerns, receiving updated Planning Enforcement advice on the Malt Shovel site, following up fly-tipping and skip provision, and moving Hitchen's Way matters to their next stage.

I have also been undertaking training for my new role as Chair of the Audit & Governance Committee. This committee provides oversight of governance, audit, risk management, internal controls, financial assurance and standards of decision-making.

My casework tracker currently records 45 logged items. Of these, 29 are closed and 16 remain open or under monitoring. Further detail is set out later in this report.

1. MEETINGS AND ACTIVITY THIS MONTH

Date	Meeting / Activity	Purpose / Notes
8 May 2026	Recurring call with Highways	Discussed ongoing highways issues, including the Netherton Lane / Bynd Lane ford. I initiated the request for Highways to inspect the ford area; a site visit is now arranged for 12 June, followed by a discussion on treatment options.
21 May 2026	Call with CIL Officer and Highley Parish Clerk	Discussed how Community Infrastructure Levy applications are made and what types of local infrastructure projects CIL funding can potentially support.
May 2026	Audit & Governance Committee training	Undertook training in preparation for my role as Chair of the Audit & Governance Committee.

2. TRANSPORT AND BUSES

125 Bus Timetable Changes

I have now resolved the second 125 bus timetable issue since being elected.

The latest issue related to the 08:21 service and the request for it to revert to 08:08. I raised this with Shropshire Council's transport team in September 2025 and continued to chase it until the change was agreed. The revised timing is due to take effect from the end of May.

This follows the earlier first-bus timetable change, which I also took forward. That issue was raised in July 2025 and closed in January 2026. Both timetable changes took around six months to resolve, which is too long for relatively small but important service changes.

I have written to Shropshire Council's transport team asking them to review how timetable change requests are handled. Rural bus services are often difficult to sustain and can require subsidy, but residents still need a service that is practical, responsive and clearly communicated.

3. HIGHLEY PARISH: HIGHWAYS, TRAFFIC AND ROAD SAFETY

20mph Zone Around Highley Primary School and Ashleigh Gardens

I am following up concerns about vehicles ignoring the reduced speed limits around Highley Primary School and Ashleigh Gardens, particularly delivery and commercial vehicles. I have asked for traffic calming options to be considered. Highways will look at this during the planned 12 June site visit and advise whether speed bumps are an option, taking account of the number of junctions and dropped kerbs in the area.

Village-wide Traffic Management

The wider traffic and road safety review for Highley remains open. A CIL-funded feasibility report has previously been shared with Highley Parish Council and remains relevant to road safety, traffic management, school-related traffic and village-wide priorities. The next step is for us to review the report together, or through the appropriate working party, to identify whether there are recommended changes that we collectively wish to take forward.

4. HIGHLEY PARISH: PARKING AND ENFORCEMENT

Coronation Street Yellow Lines

The Coronation Street yellow lines case has now been closed. The Council has confirmed that notices were issued to residents as part of the formal consultation process and that no objections were raised during the consultation period. As a result, the Council will not be reversing the double yellow lines.

I appreciate this remains frustrating for some residents, particularly where parking is already limited. However, the Council has confirmed its final position and there is no further route available through my role at this stage. I will continue to raise specific parking, safety, access or enforcement concerns where there is a clear route for further action.

5. HIGHLEY PARISH: PLANNING, ENFORCEMENT AND DEVELOPMENT MONITORING

Silverwoods

I have not repeated the full April update here, but the key points remain that a new planning application is required for the proposed change from three day rooms to two larger day rooms, and because the previous permission related to different named individuals.

The separate concerns about construction traffic and damage to Netherton Lane also remain open. Remedial works have been agreed, repairs remain outstanding, and HGV restriction options are being explored.

Malt Shovel Development

Part of the land has been used as a caravan and lodge site for a number of years and benefits from existing planning permission. Other permissions have also been granted on parts of the land, including previous permission to extend caravan pitches, so the principle of extending the site for further caravan use has already been established in part.

A further area of land has recently been purchased and does not appear to have planning history for caravan site use. The owner has been made aware that if this land is developed in future, further planning permission is likely to be required.

At this stage, the Council's position is that the clearance and remodelling works observed so far are unlikely to amount to development requiring planning permission, as the trees were not protected and the land is not in a Conservation Area. There is currently insufficient evidence of significant planning harm to justify formal enforcement action. The owner is understood to be engaging a planning professional, and the Council will review its position if further development takes place without any necessary permission.

Land Opposite the Former Castle Inn

Planning Enforcement has also been alerted to ground clearance on land opposite the former Castle Inn. Officers have inspected the land several times. The works are not currently considered to require planning permission. The Council has been advised that the cleared land will be put to grass seed, with hedge trimming and infill planting along the roadside during the coming growing season. The burning of removed vegetation is being dealt with separately by the Council's Public Protection Team.

6. HIGHLEY PARISH: ENVIRONMENT, DRAINAGE AND UTILITIES

Kinlet View and Netherfield Sewage Odour

The sewage odour issue affecting Kinlet View and Netherfield remains open and under monitoring. There have been no recent resident reports of odour, but I am actively monitoring this as we move into the summer months, when warmer weather can make odour problems more noticeable.

Community Skip and Fly-tipping

STAR Housing have advised that there will be skip provision in July for STAR Housing residents on Rhea Hall. This is a positive step and may help with some of the local waste and disposal concerns in that area.

There has also been a further fly-tipping incident at the bottom of Pit Bank, where a mattress, pram and other items were dumped. These items have now been cleared by Shropshire Council.

I urge residents to report fly-tipping through Fix My Street. Reports logged through the correct system are visible to the relevant team and help ensure issues are tracked and cleared. Where there are disputes about whether dumped items are on public or private land, I am happy to support residents in getting the land ownership position clarified so the issue can be resolved.

I am still investigating the feasibility of a regular skip service. However, in light of the current financial position of the Council, this may not be deemed an affordable priority at present.

7. HIGHLEY PARISH: HITCHEN'S WAY AND HITCHEN'S WAY FIRST POINT

Hitchen's Way Adoption

The Hitchen's Way adoption case remains open and is currently marked amber. The road is mapped as private and sewer adoption appears to be a prerequisite before the wider adoption issue can progress. The relevant sewerage report has been requested, and I am personally chasing Severn Trent because the adoption position cannot move forward properly until the sewerage position is clarified.

Hitchen's Way First Point Maintenance Charges

The Hitchen's Way First Point maintenance services issue remains open. Residents have raised concerns that maintenance charges are high and that there may be double charging.

I have researched the issue and understand that residents may need to form a recognised tenants' association if they wish to formally challenge and potentially replace the current management arrangement. This would require support from at least 50% of residents. My next action is to prepare a letter for each household inviting residents to a meeting to discuss the issues, explain the possible route forward, and establish whether there is enough local support to progress this collectively.

8. CROSS-PARISH AND WIDER DIVISION ISSUES

Bynd Lane to Netherton Lane Ford

The Netherton Lane / Bynd Lane ford is a cross-parish issue affecting routes across the wider division. The road either side of the ford is in need of resurfacing, and I have initiated a Highways inspection so treatment options can be considered properly.

During my Highways call on 8 May, we discussed repair options and how the area could be better protected in future. Highways are due to carry out a site visit on 12 June, followed by a discussion on the available options.

One option being considered is the use of height restrictors on either side of the ford to help prevent high-sided vans and HGVs from using the route inappropriately. This may require Community Infrastructure Levy funding or a parish financial contribution. The reason this is being explored is that a more robust repair may be possible if the area can also be protected from unsuitable vehicle use. Otherwise, the available work may be limited to safety repairs only.

Ford Depth Gauge

The missing depth gauge at the Netherton Lane / Bynd Lane ford remains open but is now being progressed. Installation is currently booked for 12 June.

9. BILLINGSLEY, GLAZELEY & DEUXHILL, AND MIDDLETON SCRIVEN: LOCAL ISSUES

B4363 Speed Limit Concerns

Billingsley, Deuxhill, Glazeley and Middleton Scriven Parish Council (BDGM) has raised concerns about the speed limit on the B4363. The issue relates to a stretch of road currently designated as a 60mph zone, where there are now more residential properties and driveways leading directly onto the road.

BDGM has previously asked Highways to consider whether this section could be reduced to 40mph. Highways have confirmed that they recognise in principle that a speed limit reduction could provide benefits, but any change would need to meet strict criteria, including a speed survey and consideration of whether the proposed limit would be self-enforcing.

If justified, a Traffic Regulation Order would be required, including public consultation. I have asked for the previous correspondence and supporting documents so I can review the background and understand what options may be available to support BDGM in progressing this concern.

Glazeley Footbridge at Borle Brook

The footbridge at Borle Brook, Glazeley, is now logged as an open issue. BDGM has requested repair and reinstatement of the bridge. I am investigating what can be done and whether this can be progressed through the appropriate public rights of way or local access route.

Cape of Good Hope, Billingsley

The Cape of Good Hope case remains open, but there has been a more positive update this month. The Parish Council has spoken with the architect, who has had contact with the owner and wants the matter to progress. The current expectation is that demolition and removal of spoil down to foundation level could be achieved within two to three weeks, although there is still uncertainty over whether the owner intends to proceed with construction or sale after demolition.

If action is not taken by the owner, I will support the Parish Council in exploring whether further enforcement action, including forced demolition if possible, can be progressed.

10. PUBLIC RIGHTS OF WAY, FOOTPATHS AND LOCAL ACCESS

Highley Cycle Track

The Highley Cycle Track ownership and maintenance case has been closed from my Highley casework list because the location has now been pinpointed to Chelmarsh. The resident has been informed and the case has been passed to the councillor for that ward.

The owner has also been in touch with the Highley Parish Clerk. This has raised a wider question about how joined-up maintenance would work if Highley maintained its section but adjoining parishes did not maintain theirs. The wider ownership and maintenance issue may therefore still need coordination beyond my division.

11. COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE LEVY AND LOCAL IMPROVEMENTS

On 21 May I attended a call with the Community Infrastructure Levy officer and Highley Parish Clerk to understand how CIL applications are made and what the funding can potentially be used for. CIL is intended to help fund infrastructure required to support development. It is not a general-purpose fund, so applications need to be clearly linked to eligible infrastructure needs.

This is relevant because some local issues may need a funding route beyond standard highways budgets, including possible measures around the Netherton Lane / Bynd Lane ford, height restrictors, and wider traffic or road safety improvements.

12. CURRENT CASEWORK POSITION

The casework tracker currently records 45 logged items. Of these, 29 are closed and 16 remain open.

The average time to close a case, based on the information currently logged, is approximately 52 calendar days, or approximately 37 working days if measured on a Monday to Friday basis. This is only an indicative figure because the tracker records most dates by month rather than exact day.

The two long-running 125 bus cases distort the average because each took around six months to resolve. Excluding those two bus cases, the average closure time is approximately 40 calendar days, or approximately 29 working days, across 27 closed cases.

13. LOOKING AHEAD

In June I will follow up with Highways after the planned site visit to the Netherton Lane / Bynd Lane ford on 12 June. I will also monitor the planned installation of the missing depth gauge and the replacement road signs for Vicarage Lane and Arley View Close.

I will continue to press for progress on the 20mph area around Highley Primary School and Ashleigh Gardens, and I will seek to review the Highley traffic and road safety feasibility report with the appropriate parish representatives or working party to identify any recommended changes that could be taken forward collectively.

I will review the correspondence and supporting information relating to the B4363 speed limit concerns so that I can understand the previous Highways position and support BDGM in identifying the next practical step.

I will continue to monitor Silverwoods, the Malt Shovel development, Hitchen's Way adoption, Hitchen's Way First Point maintenance charges, the Kinlet View and Netherfield sewage odour issue, the Glazeley footbridge, and the Cape of Good Hope building in Billingsley.

I will also continue work connected to my role as Chair of the Audit & Governance Committee. My focus remains on keeping local issues moving, following up where matters are delayed, and ensuring residents receive a clear explanation even where the final outcome is not the one they had hoped for.

14. FORTHCOMING MEETINGS

Date	Meeting / Activity	Purpose / Notes
1 June 2026	VFM preparation / member briefing	Council-related preparation and member briefing activity.
2 June 2026	Highley Parish Council Planning Meeting	Parish planning meeting.
2 June 2026	Highley Parish Council Full Council Meeting	Full Parish Council meeting following the planning meeting.
4 June 2026	National Cycle Network Route 45 Initial Meeting, Severn Centre, Highley	Initial meeting regarding National Cycle Network Route 45.
9 June 2026	Audit and Governance Chair and Vice-Chair Pre-Meeting	Pre-meeting linked to my role as Chair of the Audit and Governance Committee.
9 June 2026	Strategic Overview and Scrutiny Work Programme Session	Session to discuss the Overview and Scrutiny work programme.
10 June 2026	Councillor Surgery	Resident-facing councillor surgery.
11 June 2026	Audit Committee Training	Training linked to my role as Chair of the Audit and Governance Committee.
11 June 2026	Opposition Party Meeting with Andy Wilde, Service Director Infrastructure	Meeting with the Service Director Infrastructure.
12 June 2026	Local Government Inform Briefing	Local government briefing session.
25 June 2026	Audit and Governance Committee	Formal committee meeting linked to my role as Chair of the Audit and Governance Committee.

15. CONTACT INFORMATION

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Residents are welcome to contact me about local issues, council services, highways, planning concerns, community safety, environmental matters, or any issue where help is needed to identify the right route through Shropshire Council.