

GREEN PARTY BULLETIN for RADBROOK, PORTHILL, FRANKWELL & KINGSLAND

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'SCHOOL STREETS' FOR OUR AREA?

Traffic around our schools is harmful. Children are affected by vehicle pollution, there is an ever-present risk of collisions and roads don't feel safe for walking and cycling so people avoid these healthier ways to travel. One way to reduce these risks is for a stretch of road to become walking and cycling only for a few minutes at the start and end of the school day. These schemes, known as 'School Streets' are being introduced in many places in the UK. Shropshire Council recently voted to investigate these but this work has been delayed. I will continue to press Shropshire Council on this and ensure our local schools are consulted.

Other ideas that can be considered include removing parking bays or lowering speed limits. Whether such schemes make sense for local schools will need proper consultation. **Area-wide 20mph on residential streets remains the simplest, cheapest and most effective way to increase safety for all.** Shropshire Council is falling behind in not supporting this. As both your Councillor and a governor at Woodfield School I am keen to make sure all views are heard. Please get in touch if you any thoughts on this.



School Streets: Could streets outside schools become 'walking and cycling only' at the beginning and end of the school day?

NO MORE INAPPROPRIATE HOUSING

Yet another attempt has been made to get planning permission for houses in the valley between Kingsland and Longden Road, an essential part of Shrewsbury's green network. **Once again residents have objected strongly and I have too.** I'm hopeful that the outcome will be a refusal (again!). Please contact me if you would like to get involved with protecting green spaces. Some new groups have recently been set up to help with this in our area.



Help protect green space, like this between Kingsland and Longden Rd

Elsewhere developers of new luxury homes next to the river have spoiled life for residents in Pengrove. An agreed work plan has been broken and together **residents and I are fighting for this to stop.** We need a new agreed work plan now, and perhaps even more importantly we need proper enforcement.

All this shows the need for stronger planning rules. Sadly, we face government plans to take power away from local people and a Shropshire Council leadership too keen on development. Whilst there *is* a need for new affordable homes, developers are needlessly spoiling green areas and building homes that don't meet the best environmental standards. Shropshire Council's leaders continue to 'go for growth' rather than concentrating on meeting need. **I have opposed this approach and will continue to do so.**

IMPRESSIVE COMMUNITY SUPPORT FOR 'AUTUMN CLEAN'

Thanks to the **more than 25 residents** who turned out on an unseasonably warm Sunday September 13th to help us give our area an autumn clean. Many thanks to the Shrewsbury Environment Centre for the loan of the equipment.

With so many people we tackled a wide area and gathered **over 20 bags of rubbish** - special thanks to those who took on Frankwell Car Park! Thank you also to the other residents who've been out keeping our area tidy recently - it's great to see our community coming together in this way.

If you would like to help **organise a litter pick in your area** later in the year, please get in touch (contact details below).



Local residents take part in the recent litter pick

RIVERSIDE ACCESS FOR ALL



Above: access improvements I helped install in 2017

In 2017 I was able to help install a new gate on the riverside path to allow mobility scooters to have access (see photo to the left). Sadly, the route from the Boathouse pub to Pengwern Rowing Club has deteriorated so the whole stretch now needs some attention. I recently spoke to one of the

Council's directors about this, and was **promised that the area would get some attention.**

Whilst a solution here is made complicated by the mixed ownership and management (Shropshire Council, the Town Council, Shrewsbury School and Pengwern Rowing Club are all involved), both the footpath and the Rowing Club are **important assets for local residents** so I hope to be able to report soon on further improvements.

There have also been questions raised about the cattle grazing in this area. The cows are there as a conservation management tool to boost biodiversity, meaning that the wildlife in the area will directly benefit in a way that they wouldn't if the land was only being cut with machines.

MAKING IT EASIER FOR CYCLISTS TO STICK TO ROADS

Some residents have **concerns about hazardous cycling on pavements** - I've witnessed this too. With the welcome increase in cycling since lockdown it's useful to be reminded of the law: unless a pavement is designated a cycleway it is not permitted to cycle on it.

The answer: **we need to make both roads and pavements safer for everyone**, especially as travel habits change. As well as lower speed limits we need to see properly separated cycle lanes and removal of older cycle routes that are not fit for purpose.

As Chair of Shropshire Council's Road Safety Group I worked with all other parties to propose better rules for future spending in this area and am pleased to say that this was agreed at September's meeting of Shropshire Council. **Watch this space for possible changes to benefit everyone.**

GET IN TOUCH



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