

Acton Burnell, Frodesley, Pitchford, Ruckley and Langley Parish Council
Shropshire Councillor Report Nov 2025

Acton Burnell, Frodesley, Pitchford, Ruckley and Langley issues

My activity in Sept/Oct as guided by the last PC meeting, this has included:

Frodesley Village speed signs – I have chased by email and phone and just had a reply explaining delays and saying they hope to progress 'within the next month' but subject to the 'Spending Control Board'.

Frodesley Lodge temporary home – I've at last had a reply on this saying Planning regard the case as closed.

Roof line on Castle Barns – I have chased on enforcement and the reply has been shared with John and Anna, for discussion. It appears Planning have had an explanation – but aren't intending to take action.

Demolished Barns – We have had a full reply from Enforcement, however these have been designated as 'not heritage' so the demolition seen only as a technical breach

Parish Paths Partnership – I had a helpful reply from (former GP) Jeremy Parker, but the Council contacts he suggested (I've tried 2) haven't replied yet.

In addition I've met with Chris Knowles at Lane Farm - who I hope can attend our PC meet – to see at first hand his concerns about 3 flood risk spots. At their worst these 3 trap him at home – and of course stop or delay other road users and even parents picking up children from Longnor. I have reported all 3 on Fix My Street but no response as yet. I hoped Cabinet Member for Floods would attend tonight too but hss had to cancel - he's offering new dates soon.

I'm very happy to help raise this directly with Shrops Council, ideally with the Cabinet Member's help. But I also wonder whether the Parish Council or I could help talk to adjacent farmers where their planting (which apparently helped reduce run off at Ruckley) and/or their ditch maintenance might help. Absolutely no criticism of farmers concerned – busy people! - but some flood risk areas Chris and I looked at had identifiable ditches which were may be in need of clearing, albeit on the field side of the hedge by the road.

Elsewhere in Burnell Division

My activity across the Division has included:

Church Preen, Kenley, Hughley Parish

The Parish Council and local residents are continuing with their aim to set up a local team tackling potholes and other road maintenance issues locally, based on the Devon 'Road Warden' model giving 10 parishes £10k a year each. There's now a 'Looking after our Lanes' proposal which has been agreed by the Parish Council, backed by the Deputy Leader, and now discussed with Street Scene and Highways staff. The ball is slowly rolling on this but a number of outstanding issues eg risk assessments protocols, 'Chapter 8' training, pothole classification.

Church Pulverbatch, Wrentnall

No recent activity – though I did have an impressive tour of the The Knapp there.

Condoover, Dorrington, Stapleton, Ryton

In Condover I've been coordinating a sub-group with residents to propose allocation of the outstanding Section 106 fund given by the Gonsal Quarry in 2022 for road safety and improvements. The Council has this fund (£115k) and the challenge may be securing its release given the financial crisis. Quarry trucks passing through the village and past the school – continue to be a problem but the Quarry Manager has been helpful.

In Dorrington and Condover there are upcoming controversial planning issues, small estates being proposed which it is hard to block because of the lack of a Local Plan (at the county level) and a Neighbourhood Plan (at the Parish level).

In Ryton I've been working with residents to secure rejection of a planning application for 3 'executive homes' which we opposed on the 'open countryside' basis.

Also in Ryton I've of course been seeking to support progress on The Fox, which now has a new landlord/landlady, and is still hoping to open pre-Christmas.

In Stapleton I'm running a 'Meet the Councillor' (me!) event next Tues 18/11 – I'm keen to do more of these and am awaiting invitations!

Leebotwood and Longnor

Parish Council and residents have been seeking to install new VASs - vehicle activated speed signs. We've met online with the National Highways team but it's looking harder than we thought, so we're trying to use Council land next to the road rather than A49 land itself. In Longnor I am still looking at how to get road improvements for the village.

ASB issue

I'm continuing to support a local family suffering ongoing anti-social behaviour issues from a neighbouring household.

Shropshire Council issues

The financial emergency continues to be the overriding concern. Apparently there are instances in the accounts of double counting and missing items. And a further multi-million liability has been identified. All this raising issue of financial management which means it's apparently harder to know where we are than it should be. And we're anyway in a deficit budget situation with savings targets which would be challenging, even if we knew where we were exactly. However there is now a Spending Control Board which any and all spending must be approved by, and we have to hope they will get a grip.

More positively though I was in a very good Council presentation yesterday evening about Community and Family hubs, and Neighbourhood Health. This is about bringing help for the vulnerable and disadvantaged, especially those with health needs, closer to the community either through new hubs at eg village halls or outreach with visiting units. Shropshire's particular rural health needs mean we've been selected for the first wave of rollout by Government. I've suggested Parish Councils should get a presentation on the new provision, and be invited to comment on local priorities – eg pre/post natal, or early years development, or single older people, or...