

Acton Burnell Parish Council - Shropshire Cllr Report 14th July 2026

Overall issues

Meole Brace Park and Ride – Many of you will have heard of the proposed ‘suspension’ of this service. I wasn’t consulted on this, and have been trying to get more details of current usage and costings. But no luck yet. I’m also trying to clarify if this is a permanent closure, or a suspension as the press release said. I’d welcome your comments:

- whether you/neighbours use this or not
- whether you’d use Oxon as proposed instead
- suggestions you might have to reduce costs/promote usage

The context is that government has cut Shropshire’s bus grant by several hundred thousand pounds, so there had to be cuts somewhere. It’s said that Meole Brace loses £300 a day, but I haven’t seen any figures for this.

The Parish Council may want to email the Cabinet Member Cllr Rob Wilson to express their objections, particularly if Oxon isn’t seen as a credible alternative.

Potholes – I continue to chase, and I’d welcome feedback on progress locally. I understand pretty much all our reactive pothole repairs have been switched to Shropshire-based Multevo, and there’s signs of better quality work, eg on Frodesley Lane recently. However there are still some awful long-standing potholes, eg just north of Acton Burnell. The main county-wide contract with Keir runs out early 2027 and is being reviewed currently.

Rally – As you may have seen, I was very disappointed by Council’s approval of the closed section route through Pulverbatch – where it goes through the middle of a working farm, and where the Parish Council has consistently objected, and dozens of residents have written in protest.

Meanwhile Acton Burnell Parish Council, and Leebotwood and Longnor Parish Council, have welcomed the Rally, so I’ve supported you in that and backed the Rally as a whole. I’m meeting the Rally Organiser here next week to help local liaison and we might be able to get them to your September meeting if useful – or to set up a separate conversation. I’ve recently been photographing poor roads locally (eg by Chatwall, and Ruckley/Causewaywood and am urging them – if this is a problem for their cars – to put pressure on Highways to get these fixed before the Rally. Advice/other suggestions welcome.

Litter bins – as previously flagged, emptying bins is part of that Keir contract, and they have received a warning following recent failures. They changed their emptying system back in April, without checking with councillors. If you see any that still need emptying please report on Fix My Street, if nothing happens send me the reference number. And/or email me, pref with a photo and a ‘what three words’ location. I’ve had to empty one dog bin myself, if desperate I might have to do more...

Other

The Council’s new Finance & Improvement Scrutiny Committee, which I now chair, meets again 13th July to look at the Council’s draft Medium Term Financial Plan, proposing how we deal with our financial problems longer term. One of the routes is Asset Disposal, which we will have a briefing on in September. I’m happy to feedback on these if useful. If you’re aware of council owned property locally – fields, buildings – that may be unused or forgotten please say.