

**Acton Burnell, Frodesley, Pitchford, Ruckley and Langley**  
**Annual Parish Council Meeting 12 May 2026**

Apologies for not joining you but I've just got a hospital appointment I have to honour.

**Potholes**

The key local issue I've been involved with since the last meeting continues to be potholes. I'm grateful for the extra protests made by the Parish Council, by Concord College, by Wheels of Old, and Chris Knowles and others. I'm pleased to say there have been responses from the two key technicians involved, Graham Downes and Andy Oliver, and that some work has at last been done:

- Filling some of the major, more prominent potholes north of Pitchford and down to Acton Burnell
- Tackling some of the drainage issues on the lower half of Frodesley Lane.

This is still far from enough and I will keep up the pressure, especially for repairs along the collapsing utility trench down from Frodesley village. Complaints from you to me, or to the officers are useful.

I visited Wheels of Old who pointed out that they can no longer send customers on test drives, especially on the route they used to recommend – up to Chatwall and back through Ruckley, I drove this myself and two sections there are appalling so I will be flagging those. Hopefully things will get better. While Shrops Council as a whole continues very short of money, the Highways budget is increasing this year and next. We are also again reviewing the Kier contract which was given a one-off extra year extension last year, to March 2027, and making more use of local contactors such as Multevo.

**Golding/Right of Way**

I have chased again (see below) as promised, but still no reply. I will phone to chase asap.

**Chief Exec visit**

Our new Chief Exec Tanya Miles has just offered to 'Walk the Wards' and I've immediately replied to invite her here. Walking Burnell Division as a whole may be a bit of a commitment, but I'd be keen to get her to see our potholes here and maybe meet with one or two of you?

**Rally Sept 19/20<sup>th</sup>**

Yourselves and Longnor seem happy to accommodate the Rally and I've been pleased to support that. However Pulverbatch PC and residents are as you may know very concerned about the proposed road closures there, so I've been supporting them in that. One thing which has come up is that though Cheltenham Motor Club Ltd is cited as organisers, of this and previous rallies, the company appears 'dormant' with Companies House, with no funds or turnover. So there is some concern about overall organisation and insurance which you may need to be aware of.

**My new Scrutiny role**

I'm pleased to say I've been asked to chair a new Scrutiny Committee for the Council. The job of the Scrutiny Committees, in case you don't know, is to review Council plans and policies and feed back comments – positive or negative. In particular they can set up 'Task and Finish' groups (T&F's) to focus on specific issues – for instance I've served on T&F's recently looking at the Gyrotory system, the future of Shirehall, and the Community Infrastructure Levy system here. All these resulted in reports and recommendations to Cabinet.

So, I've been asked to chair Finance and Improvement Scrutiny, and as well as looking at regular finance reports we'll want to play our part to help the Council achieve financial

stability. We'll pick relevant T&F topics to investigate - eg Income Development, Asset Management, Procurement – which could help our financial position. Suggestions welcome.

(Golding RoW email below)

**From:** Chris Naylor <[Chris.Naylor@shropshire.gov.uk](mailto:Chris.Naylor@shropshire.gov.uk)>

**To:** Helen Foxall <[Helen.Foxall@shropshire.gov.uk](mailto:Helen.Foxall@shropshire.gov.uk)>

**Subject:** SA35416 update please

Hi Helen

Parish Council pressing for progress on this Modification Order, as below.

Any news please? Or any further info we can help with.

Have we climbed up the list at all?

All the best

Chris

Cllr Chris Naylor, Burnell

### **Shropshire Council (Bridleway Additions, Parishes of Cound and Pitchford) Modification Order 2024**

Your recent email to my colleagues Emily Parsons-Jones and Stephen Rodenhurst has been passed to myself, as following Shona Butter's retirement, I am the new case officer for the above order.

As the parish council are aware, this order is 3<sup>rd</sup> on the list to be sent to the Secretary of State (Planning Inspectorate - PINS) for determination. What they may be less familiar with is the amount of work that is required before a contested order is ready to be submitted to PINS. It is best practice for the Order Making Authority (OMA) – Shropshire Council in this instance – to write their Statement of Case in support of the order before the order is sent to PINS. This is the singular most important piece of work that an OMA produces to persuade the Inspector of its case. Which is why we submit it with the order, when we can give it our full attention, rather than later in the process when timescales are short.

We also need to consider team capacity and scheduling practicalities, to avoid us having too many orders with PINS at any one time. These cases often lead to a full public inquiry, which require much preparation in advance.

As a team, we are also experiencing a transition period following Shona Butter's recent voluntary redundancy/early retirement and the dissemination amongst ROW Officers of her ongoing workload – which includes a full programme of Enforcement issues as well as Definitive Map cases.

I understand and appreciate the parish council's frustrations and wishes for this order to be prioritised. However, in order of fairness to other applicants and parishes who also wish their cases to be prioritised, we consider that the system of working primarily in date order is the fairest to all parties. One of the exceptions to this, is those applications – such as in this case initially – whereby the applicant appeals to the Secretary of State over the non-determination of an application. In such instances where the appeal is successful, the PINS Inspector will then direct the Council to determine the application within a specific deadline. This inevitably affects the timescales for those contested orders awaiting submission to PINS, as officer time is then diverted to investigating those outstanding appeal cases.

There is not at present a similar process whereby applicants can appeal to PINS to direct an OMA to forward a contested order. However, I understand their reasons for wishing to make informal representations to the Secretary of State in this regard. I hope the above assists the parish council in understanding the "how, why and where" pinch points exist in the Definitive Map Modification order (DMMO) process.

If you have any further questions, please contact me.

Kind Regards

Helen

Helen Foxall

**Rights of Way Legal Orders and Enforcement Officer**