

# Castlefields & Ditherington

## Community Newsletter

Edition 20 - April 09



### The Shropshire Council

Shropshire County Council and Shrewsbury and Atcham Borough Council ceased to exist on 31<sup>st</sup> March. Elections to the new Shropshire and Shrewsbury Town Councils will be held on June 4th 2009. In the interim period **Alan Mosley** will continue to represent all residents. He is also an interim member of the Town Council. Please see contact details below.

Across the County an Implementation Executive has taken over for 9 weeks and this is made up of former County Councillors and leading former District/Borough Councillors.

### Beware: road works on Spring Gardens

It is good news that Persimmons seem to be moving towards starting work on their **Spring Gardens** site.

However it will mean traffic disruption as the utilities are installed to service the new housing.

Works are expected to start **Mid May for four weeks** while National Grid Gas install connections. Traffic signals will be in operation during this time and will be manually operated at peak times during the day.

Unfortunately, there will be further disruption for telecoms work in late May and then for electric in late summer/autumn.

Apart from difficulties for local residents there is bound to be some additional congestion affecting the whole area at times. **Alan Mosley** will liaise with officers to ensure that there is minimal disruption and he asks people to contact him to report problems.

#### Contact information

**Alan Mosley:**

Tel: (01743) 231834 or 07967657028

Email: [alan.mosley@shropshire.gov](mailto:alan.mosley@shropshire.gov)

See also: [www.alanmosley.co.uk](http://www.alanmosley.co.uk).

Please send Alan your email address for regular local news messages.

#### Ditherington improvements

**Alan Mosley** recently met **PC Pete Franklin**, who is our new Local Police Officer, for Castlefields and Ditherington.

They discussed planned developments including new metal fencing, litter bins, partnership working with Severnside relating to anti-social behaviour and a general drive for improvements in the area.

They were also joined by **Chris Edwards** the new Shropshire Council's Assistant Director for Environmental Maintenance.

Chris promised a full study regarding the implementation of high quality CCTV to provide surveillance and deter anti-social behaviour.

He also plans to look at an interim CCTV solution to provide greater assurance for local residents.

A review of lighting, particularly at street corners, is also on the cards, while a major litter pick in the area is scheduled for the Whitsun half-term.



## New Council phone numbers

**General enquiries** - 0345 678 9000

**Benefits** - 0345 678 9001

**Council tax** - 0345 678 9002

**Business rates** - 0345 678 9003

**Planning & building control** - 0345 678 9004

**Housing and social services** - 0345 678 9005

**Streets, roads and transport** - 0345 678 9006

**Bins and recycling** - 0345 678 9007

**Children's services/schools** - 0345 678 9008

**Payment line** - 0345 678 9009

**Corporate fax** - 0345 678 9011

**Shrewsbury Town Council** – (01743) 281010

## The Dana Footpath/Steps

We will soon see the first signs of the long awaited work to provide an accessible alternative to the steps, on this very busy route into town.

Archaeologists will soon be working in the Castle grounds and then, subject to their findings, a planning application for new work will be submitted.

This is likely to be a compromise which avoids most of the Castle grounds, while providing graded access to Castlegates. Let's hope this marks the end of a saga which has taken much too long to resolve.

## Election timetable

- Last date to register as an elector – Tues 19<sup>th</sup> May
- Last day for new applications for a postal vote – Tues 19<sup>th</sup> May
- Download a postal vote application form here – [www.alanmosley.co.uk/resources/Postal.pdf](http://www.alanmosley.co.uk/resources/Postal.pdf)
- Delivery of postal votes about 2 weeks before election, to be returned by 10.00 pm on June 4<sup>th</sup>
- Polling stations open on Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> June from 7.00 am to 10.00 pm
- Our usual polling stations at Castlefields and Ditherington Community Centres will be used
- We will have three different coloured ballot papers for Shropshire Council, Shrewsbury Town Council and the European elections. Counting is over the weekend with the Unitary on Friday 5<sup>th</sup> starting at 2.00 pm.

## From Alan Mosley

- Along with residents of **Woodhall Close** I have been seeking action regarding the phone box. It has long been subject to vandalism and anti-social use which has blighted the area and sets a bad example for the many schoolchildren who pass by. BT is reviewing the situation and in the meantime has put in vandal proof materials and stopped incoming calls. Let's hope this works.
- I have complained to Central Networks regarding their work at the northern end of **Sydney Avenue**. They left the site in a despicable mess. I have been assured that there are now "arrangements in hand to level, reseed, remove the fencing & tidy the area".
- **Litter picking** should be improved with increased resources from the new Council and I have alerted officers to a number of 'hot-spots'. I am looking at a new scheme of grants to local communities, which can pay for a local person to be employed for a few hours a week to help collect litter and generally keep the area tidy. I will report back and discuss the matter with the Castlefields Action Team and equivalent in Ditherington.
- I am generally pleased with the work undertaken on the corners of **Albert Street and Severn Street**. The former followed reported trip hazards cause by tree routes and the latter is to improve the site and deter the sort of usage seen last summer. It is great that a number of residents are taking on the planting and maintenance of the Severn Street corner, just as they have done to great effect over the years at Albert Street.
- Recently I attended the **Allotment Holders Association** AGM where I presented a cheque from the Neighbourhood Forum for refurbishment of their 'Community Hut'. It was reported that there are some 30 people on the waiting list for an allotment and similar numbers at sites throughout the town. Though a new site is being created there will still be a great excess of demand. I will raise the issue at the first **Annual Town Meeting on 15<sup>th</sup> April at 7.00pm at the Guildhall**. The meeting is for all town residents and any issue/question can be raised and discussed. Why not come along?