

Notes: Bucknell PC Council - 2nd March 2022

- Council set its Financial Strategy at Full Council last week
- Net budget for 2022/23 is £224M
- Settlement was one year only not the expected three
- C/Tax set at 3.99% including a 2% levy for social care
- Council still carrying a £50M deficit from previous years
- Council continuing with NWRR - £14.2M already spent (from govt grants)
- Plans to demolish Shirehall and build a new headquarters as part of a new Retail Hub on the old Riverside site in Shrewsbury were passed - £4.2M committed to early work on this – Opposition plans to pause & consider the true environmental costs (eg lack of an embedded carbon audit) of demolition & rebuild were defeated.
- Council agreed to support communities in holding Platinum Jubilee celebrations
- Shropshire Fire Authority last week passed (at the second attempt) a 1.99% C/Tax rise.

Also:

You may have read the Judicial review re Bishops Castle Hospital was not defended by the trust (deemed effectively an illegal closure as no proper public consultation) – Physiotherapy now reinstated – Eye clinic to recommence in April – Still can't reopen beds due to lack of staff

Following requests by a number of parishes I have recently got agreement from the Portfolio holder for Highways Cllr Dean Carroll to attend a local public meeting in the division to present the Councils latest plans for the up to £60M it plans to invest in highways over the coming years and to field questions etc – This is likely to be in Newcastle V/Hall late March/Early April subject to diaries etc

I am continuing to chase officers over various issues such as timescales for remedial work in Chapel Lawn road, the causeway etc