

# **Town Centre Working Group**

## **Meeting Notes, 23 May 2025**

Present: Cllrs Aldcroft, Hughes & Manton

Shropshire Council Officers, Graham Downes and Richard Garbett

Town Clerk

Councillor Manton said that he was pleased that some progress had been made since the meeting in January, but unfortunately the work that has been undertaken on Cheshire Street is of a poor standard.

Graham responded that there is still work to be completed on Cheshire Street, the work to the drains will be redone, the crossings will be improved, the stones by the Buttercross re-laid; however there are some decisions that need to be made as there are no spare materials. Once this work has been completed the road markings will be repainted.

The condition of the road from Salisbury Road to the roundabout at the junction of Shropshire Street and Frogmore Road was discussed.

It was confirmed that the resurfacing of this road is part of the capital programme planned for 2027.

Councillor Groves asked if there is a need for a roundabout there; the road layout will be looked at as part of the design when the work is being scheduled.

The car park area by the Swimming Baths was also raised as the area is not well maintained, the hedges are not cut and the bins are on occasion not emptied. This area is maintained by Street Scene.

The ownership of the land at the top and bottom of Clive Steps, and the small piece of land on the opposite side of the road was discussion; no-one knew the history as to who maintains the area or who empties the bin. It was suggested that the Town Council consider maintaining it.

Questions were raised about the cutting of the grass on the roundabouts, especially the new roundabout by the David Wilson Holmes development.

Richard confirmed that the roundabouts are cut twice a year under the management of Street Scene.

It was agreed to request a second meeting with officers from Street Scene.

The group went out to look at Cheshire Street

### Crossing Points

Due to the lack of replacement stones it was proposed that the crossing by Specsavers be tarmacked, the stones removed from the crossing could then be used to replace missing/damaged stones in the other crossing points.

### Buttercross

There are several loose and missing stones by the Buttercross, in particular where the cars park. It was proposed that the area next to the road, as shown below, be tarmacked so the stones taken out could be used as replacements/spares. The new tarmacked area could possibly become a parking bay, depending on the width.



### Loading Bay

A discussion took place regarding the loading bays outside the old Lloyds bank building and the possibility of it being made into a parking bay. Graham said that this could be considered, a highways order would need to be produced to change the use.

The order for the work to be undertaken on Cheshire Street is proposed to be:

- Repair the drainage by the Natwest Bank
- Repair/replace the crossing areas
- Change the loading bay orders
- Possibly lay a new road dressing
- Line painting

The group continued to walk around the town and down Queen Street; Councillors were disgusted with the state of Queen Street; the issue of the role and responsibilities of the Shropshire Council Street Scheme Operative was raised again.

It was agreed that the meeting was helpful and the Shropshire Council Officers were thanked for their time,