

# scan

SENIOR CITIZENS  
ACTION NETWORK

**SHIPSTON ON STOUR** and surrounding communities

**Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> September 2022**

Townsend Hall, Sheep Street, Shipston on Stour

10.00am for free refreshments / 10.30am start

**Vanessa Compton – Stour Health &  
Wellbeing Partnership**

**Gill Roache – Age Concern Shipston**

***Please DO NOT attend if you feel unwell***

*Please advise us if you no longer wish to receive the SCAN notice by calling Marie Darwen on 01789 260 108 or email [marie.darwen@stratford-dc.gov.uk](mailto:marie.darwen@stratford-dc.gov.uk)*

*If you require transport to attend the SCAN meeting, VASA **may** be able to help with a door to door volunteer car. Mileage costs payable. Tel: 01789 262889 or Email: [transport@vasa.org.uk](mailto:transport@vasa.org.uk)*

## Shipston SCAN Meeting – July 12<sup>th</sup> 2022

Marie Darwen opened the meeting and welcomed members as Trevor Russel was unable to attend.

We were joined by **Ian Cooper** the ex-mayor of Shipston who gave an overview of his term as Mayor. Ian began by showing a short video of work undertaken by the Town Council over the last 18 months. Ian has served as Mayor during 2018/19 and 2021/22 finishing in May this year. He handed over the mayorship to Cllr Marianne Westwood. Ian has been a Councillor with Shipston Town Council since 2006 and has chaired the finance working group since that time. Each mayoral term is fixed for a year and the Mayor is voted in by the Council. Ian considers two terms to be enough and it is unlikely he would stand again as Mayor. Ian mentioned the support of his wife Tina. Both have full time jobs so undertaking civic duties as Mayor and Mayoress required some juggling. Ian felt that he and Tina had undertaken a lot more charity work in his first term as Mayor. His second term dealt more with coming out of Covid and was a very different experience to first time around. The previous mayor, Sheila Saunders, was unable to undertake any civic duties at all due to Covid and all meetings were virtual. Despite this she steered the Council admirably and handled the situation well.

Since Ian was mayor in 2018/19 there have been many new councillors and also Council office staff. Helen Morgan was recruited as town clerk early in Ian's Mayoral term. With new staff and councillors there has been a recent learning curve for the town council.

As Mayor there are three main responsibilities: 1. To chair Council meetings to keep them flowing and give everyone a voice, setting agendas and the direction of council to make sure it functions effectively. 2. To act as the voice of the Council. 3. To act as the civic representative of the Council.

Over the year Mayors across the County get to know each other fairly well and are known as 'the Chain gang'. Although some events can appear a drudge most are not and are often a way to make contacts. Mayor of Leamington put on a bat night where Warwickshire Wildlife Trust were involved, and Ian was able to talk to them about the Meadow in Shipston.

Ian's highlights of his time as Mayor involve local community events such as the All-Star Cricket evening. It was lovely to see very young children getting interested in cricket. Younger children are intrigued by people in Chains. Ian was asked by a little one if he was the king of Shipston!

Ian's biggest take away from time as Mayor is the strength of the community, all the work volunteers do for others in the town is incredible.

Margaret Kamdar asked about access to the river by the bridge. Ian said the town Council now own some land in the car park and there are well developed plans to put some picnic benches in and open up access.

Shirley Clarke asked about planning permission for the new Tesco store. Ian explained that Tesco had permission to put a shop there for some time. Planning permission runs out after 3 years and needs to be applied for again. The Town Council objected each time Tesco submitted an application. However, the District Council awarded planning permission and Ian suggested that Tesco are very experienced in putting in applications and being awarded permission.

We then had a talk from **Vina Fatania** from **Healthwatch Warwickshire**. She explained that it is a small, independent organisation created as part of the health & social care act so that patient voice is captured. They are funded through Public Health Warwickshire. They listen to patients' feedback on experiences in health & social care settings such as GP surgeries, dentists, the 111 service, care homes, domiciliary care services etc, etc.

Healthwatch undertakes project work. Some projects are commissioned – e.g. the community bed project commissioned by South Warwickshire NHS Foundation Trust. Projects are based on what the community tells them. E.g. hidden homeless not having access to GPs. Project around carer wellbeing. What services do carers need? A carers group might not suit everyone. Healthwatch have recently finished a project focusing on people who are hearing impaired and how they are able (or not!) to access services. There is a lack of BSL interpreters and sometimes patients are told they have to pay for the interpreter which is not the case.

Last few years have focused around Covid related issues - vaccinations, access to GPs. Capturing patient experience.

Currently there is a problem with dentistry as there are fewer NHS dentists now. People can't access an NHS dentist unless it's emergency.

Ensuring that Healthwatch can advise and signpost people, provide information and advice. Investigate issues for individuals. Cannot advocate on behalf of others but can support them to appoint an advocate.

Healthwatch engage with people, they go out into community to ask them about specific areas – GPs, care homes etc. Just last week Vina was told about a patient in hospital who was cold and asked for an extra blanket. The simple request was ignored, when this patient's experience could have been improved very easily.

Healthwatch also undertake strategic work – influencing health and care leaders. The Chief Executive sits on the Health & Wellbeing board and has conversations with health and care leaders about what people are saying about services. There are current conversations around bed occupancy and cancellation of operations.

Healthwatch undertake care home visits – if an issue is raised by a resident or family member they would check with County whether the care home was on their radar. As long as one person is funded by public purse in the care home Healthwatch can go in. There is a bank of volunteers who support Healthwatch with care home visits, generally with a background in health or social care.

**Ashley Trinder** is the **Independent Living Officer** at Stratford District Council. His job focuses on how to meet the needs of people in their own home so they continue to live independently at home for as long as possible. Ashley will undertake a home assessment to understand the needs and vulnerabilities. He will suggest ways to improve managing at home. Most people Ashley sees will self-fund the gadgets, equipment or adaptations. Social care can also provide equipment but they would need to conduct their own assessment – they would not accept Ashley's assessment. Ashley circulated a very simple mobile phone, a gps pendant that detects falls and had a table with some helpful equipment.

Olwen Bartram asked about costs for equipment and gadgets and setting up any gadgets requiring some technological know how. Ashley can help with set up but cannot offer funding for them.

**Vanessa Compton (Chair of the Stour Health & Wellbeing Partnership)** mentioned the Age Concern Grants of up to £200 which could pay for technology/gadgets which could assist independence. Age Concern also arrange outings once a month. It was suggested that Age Concern come along to a future SCAN meeting.

**Jacqui Close** introduced herself as a local **social prescriber**. She is non-medical and focuses on general wellbeing. So if someone is struggling with money or housing or isolation, Jacqui would signpost or refer to other relevant services. She does a lot of handholding & keeping in touch with people. GPs can refer patients to Jacqui or people can self-refer by contacting the surgery and asking to see the social prescriber.