SUPPLEMENTARY PACK:

Hills Ford Stages Rally Testimonials Received and agreed for sharing with the Economy and Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee to inform their meeting on the 12th November 2026

Shropshire Historic Churches Trust =	*"I am writing on behalf of the Shropshire Historic Churches Trust re your meeting tonight. I understand there will be discussion of the regular car rallies which occur. Inevitably they have consequences for those using the roads in your area. My request is that you avoid the second Saturday in September when Trusts throughout the country organisé Ride+Stride which is a fund raising opportunity for walkers, runners, cyclists and even drivers to gain sponsorship to raise money which is shared between their local church and the county Churches Trust. It is usually our biggest source of fund raising and since the current government's ending of VAT relief on church buildings the cost of maintaining these precious buildings has increased. In Shropshire alone we provide up to £140,000 each year to support churches who wish to maintain the church buildings or extend what is on offer for their local community.* *My request therefore is that this date is not used for rallies so that our participants are not put at risk."*
Shropshire Churches Tourism Group (SCTG) and the Shropshire Historic Churches Trust (SHCT) =	***"Representations to the Scrutiny meeting by Shropshire Council*** *If your Council believes the vague evidence that the Rally might have made a net financial gain for the county, and wants to allow future Rallies, here are some representations about the event this year (19-20 Sept 2026).* ***Inadequate notice**: Rally routes were not published until 4 September.* *Road closures in the vicinity of the Rally race-routes were never published online. Available only in 'Residents Handbooks' distributed about a week before.* *Local businesses and churches had no time to rearrange their work.* *Many examples, but one will suffice:* *Six churches in Corvedale (centred on Munslow) had only one week to rearrange all their services and events. No prior notice had been given to the Incumbent or the Church Wardens about the Rally, or what roads would be closed to all but residents, causing long detours and delays.* *A Church Warden was told that Hills Ford Stages didn't want to give advance notice.* *He replied, "If they can't tell us the road closures, then they should not have a rally at all".* ***Poor consultation**: HFS did not contact the Shropshire Churches Tourism Group (SCTG) or the Shropshire Historic Churches Trust (SHCT). Therefore, these organisations were unable to warn their members, many of whom would clearly*

	be affected by Rally racing on a Sunday (which is a main reason why, for example, the Corvedale churches were so badly affected). Total lack of genuine consultation. It seems that only homes and businesses on the closed roads were consulted, leaving others with no help or warning. ***Badly supervised**: e.g., no signs at the start of footpaths leading to closed roads. Walkers arrived at the gate/stiles to the closed roads and saw signs only a few metres upstream. Walking on Rally roads is illegal, so they were stuck.* ***Avoid the Shropshire Hills National Landscape**: Some racetrack routes were in the NL. This should not happen again because the disturbance to wildlife and the natural environment is unacceptable. This NL has been preserved and sustained for about 70 years. National resources have been provided, and volunteers have worked hard. Shropshire Council has supported these efforts. There are other roads outside the NL. If your Council decides to allow any more Rallies, they should never be in the NL."*
Affected Parish Council =	*"Our Parish Council had no complaints from any residents about the rally. It seems none of our parishioners were inconvenienced by it and no damage was done.* *We were impressed by the way the rally organisers communicated with the parish council and kept us fully informed throughout.* *We believe some of our parishioners enjoyed watching the rally.* *We also believe it brought business to this area and thus was good for our local economy.* *Finally, we believe that pot holes were mended for the rally, so that was another bonus."*
Affected resident =	*"Statement for the Scrutiny meeting on 12 November :--* *In the spring Consultation, Shropshire Council stated that:* *if local objections were supported by* *(a) the Parish Council and/or*

	(b) the Local Member, *then the route (road closure) would be refused.* *In our case, Worthen Parish Council unanimously objected ... agreed that the Rally is 'unsuitable for this area'.* *The Local Member supported the Parish.* *But the Cabinet did not refuse ... Road closures were approved in Worthen Parish, including part of the actual racing route for the Linley Stage.* *I want a full explanation of why the road closures in the area covered by Worthen w Shelve PC were authorised despite the objection by both the PC and the Local Member;* *And I want assurance that this will not happen again in Worthen w Shelve, nor in any other parish council area, when a PC &/or Local Member objects to any future rallies by HFS or by any other rally organisation (because all of them will be keen to drive in Shropshire now you have opened the floodgates).”*
Elected Member from one of the areas affected =	*“One of the stages came through Stanton Long, in my division and it was very well received by residents as well as the local Parish Council whose meeting I attended (Easthope, Shipton, Stanton Long Parish Council). The reach extended across my division with people going to the viewing places. I was invited to come on local Radio the Friday before the event as the BBC really struggled to find a Cllr speaking positively about it, which I was happy to do.* *I understand that local businesses did well out of the event, but for local motor sport fans there isn’t that much on offer here, so it was great to have something like this. I hope they can visit Shropshire soon.”*