

At time of writing, the next Shropshire Council full meeting is scheduled for 24<sup>th</sup> February in Shrewsbury's Theatre Severn. The 70+ Councillors from across the County to be masked and socially distanced around the auditorium, with lap-top computers precariously balanced on knees! One of the agenda items will be to finalise the detailed draft budgets for the coming financial year (22/23).

There are now concerns that the ongoing cuts in Central Government's annual rate support grant to local authorities will result in shortfall of approx.£60m. in SC's future (23/24) revenue requirements.

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In Bayston Hill, the long discussion between SC/Diocese about jointly developing the derelict old Oakland School site and the adjacent Church Glebelands have ended. Shropshire Council's own arms-length development company "Cornovii" have been commissioned to develop only the old school site. A new planning application for 25 homes across the school grounds is now in process, and a public event is to be arranged locally for residents to view and comment upon the proposals.

Sadly, the old landmark Oak tree on the Lythwood/Lyth Hill road junction has recently been diagnosed as being very badly diseased and may now have to be felled . . .