

Shropshire Councillor Report

November 10th 2025

1. All-Age Autism Strategy Consultation

The consultation on Shropshire Council's All-Age Autism Strategy closed on 6th November. Hopefully, the responses will be overwhelmingly positive for what has been a well-considered and important initiative.

2. Draft Design Guidance Consultations

Shropshire Council is consulting on three new design documents to promote high-quality, sustainable development.

Consultations run from 17 October to 19 December 2025.

- Design of New Dwellings SPD – guidance on layout, character, inclusivity, and sustainability.
- <https://getinvolved.shropshire.gov.uk/consultations/design-of-new-dwellings-supplementary-planning-document-consultation/>
- Residential Extensions & Alterations SPD – guidance on siting, form, and minimising neighbour impact
- <https://getinvolved.shropshire.gov.uk/consultations/design-of-residential-extensions-and-alterations-supplementary-planning-document-consultation/>

- Shrewsbury Town Centre Design Code – supporting good design for movement, nature, and built form.

<https://getinvolved.shropshire.gov.uk/consultations/draft-shrewsbury-town-centre-design-code/>

3. People Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Key topics included:

- SEND and EHCP delivery progress.
- Youth Service Review and Local Youth Transformation Pilot, exploring long-term sustainability of youth work.
- Pupil outcome data (2025) showing concern and the need for stronger accountability systems.

A new Education Excellence Strategy is being developed, with consultation taking place with schools and trusts this autumn to ensure all schools are supported and held to high standards.

4. Upcoming Cabinet Reports

Two forthcoming education reports:

- SEN Provision – Capital Works: creation of new and additional SEND places using High Needs Capital funding.
- Education Place Planning Phase 4: expanding SEN capacity in response to rising pupil numbers.

Both represent positive investment in Shropshire's education provision.

5. Shrewsbury Night Bus Trial

A Night Bus trial will run 24th November–23rd December 2025, Monday to Saturday until midnight.

Routes: N11 (Gains Park), N25 (Harlescott), N27 (Bayston Hill).

This partnership with Arriva, STIG, and Julia Buckley MP aims to test demand for longer-term late-night transport.

Full timetable and fare details will be announced soon.

Great news for Bayston Hill!

6. Council Finances

For six years auditors have given only limited assurance on Shropshire Council's finances.

Repeated savings targets have not been achieved, and reserves have been used to meet spending each year.

The 2025/26 budget's £60m savings target is widely viewed as unrealistic, with insufficient reserves to meet forecast costs.

After 500 redundancies last year and a £28.9m emergency loan, the Council is again seeking further Government support to cover essential expenditure.

Bayston Hill- Local Report

Since the last council meeting, it has been quite a busy month. I've been heavily involved in my roles with the People and Health Overview and Scrutiny Committees and have recently taken part in workshops and received further information on the Health in All Policies. This initiative is a collaborative approach, adopted by Shropshire Council, that integrates health considerations into decision making across all sectors, not just the health sector. This will also feature within Supplementary Planning Documents (SPDs) around January or February next year.

I have also continued to campaign strongly for a reduction in the proposed Redrow proposed development to the West of Lyth Hill Road. I remain particularly disappointed that the latest amendments have not reduced the density or addressed the issues that led to the previous deferral. I will continue

to advocate for the village, working closely with both the Parish Council and residents to represent our concerns.

In addition, I have been involved in raising issues that were occurring at the local pharmacy. These concerns were referred to Healthwatch and the ICB and I am pleased to report that they have been taken seriously. The hard work of the staff was never in question, but they have been working under immense pressure. Additional staff have already been recruited, and improvements are being made to the way prescriptions are managed and delivered, helping things run more smoothly for patients — which is very good news.