

Shropshire Councillor Report- February 2026

Planning and Governance

Planning activity across Shropshire remains extremely busy, with significant work continuing around Local Plan alignment, Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) reform and wider economic growth planning. Alongside this strategic work, there continues to be a high volume of casework supporting residents with planning enquiries, drainage concerns, enforcement matters and highway safety issues. Regular liaison continues between portfolio holders, officers and local members to ensure local concerns are fed into decision making.

Highways and Environment

Fly-tipping remains a county-wide priority. Officers are exploring new enforcement approaches including the possible introduction of camera surveillance linked to automatic number plate recognition technology. A pilot scheme is being developed to target known hotspot areas.

The Council is also exploring the use of “smart” litter bins which compact waste and alert collection teams when nearing capacity. These could help reduce overflowing bins and improve efficiency.

Flooding and drainage continues to be a major focus across the county. A proposal is currently being considered to bring certain drainage and flood design work back in-house rather than relying solely on external consultants. If approved, this could improve response times and increase capacity to deal with flooding concerns.

Housing, Leisure and Cultural Services

The Council continues to face significant financial pressures and work is ongoing to explore options which aim to protect cultural services where possible.

Transport and Economic Growth

The Town of Culture initiative continues to support towns across Shropshire through cultural and economic regeneration. Bus tendering and wider public transport provision also remain under review.

Health and Children's Services

Work continues through the Health in All Policies Task and Finish Group, focusing on ensuring health and wellbeing considerations are fully integrated into planning and housing developments. Partnership working through the Health and Wellbeing Board is also continuing, particularly around SEND reform and preparation for future inspections.

The Local Government Association SEND Peer Review has recently taken place. Early feedback has been very positive, recognising strong leadership, clear strategic direction and improved partnership working. However, workforce pressures, recruitment of educational psychologists, SEND casework capacity and ongoing funding challenges remain areas requiring continued focus. A full report is expected shortly.

Local News – Bayston Hill

Planning continues to be a major focus locally. The outline application for land North of Pulley Lane has generated significant interest from residents in both Bayston Hill and Meole Brace, with many objections submitted. Concerns raised include traffic impacts given our already limited access routes, pressure on GP surgeries and school capacity, limited public transport, safe walking and wheeling routes, environmental impacts on the Rea Brook corridor and known flooding issues affecting the site.

The Environment Agency has now lodged a formal objection. In straightforward terms, they are not satisfied that the flood risk work submitted so far properly demonstrates that the development would be safe or that it would not worsen

flooding elsewhere. They have asked for more detailed and up-to-date modelling before flood risk can be fully understood.

A further outline application has also been submitted for approximately 24 dwellings on land South of Jarvis Drive. Early concerns relate to access constraints along Jarvis Drive and Hanley Lane and the impact on the rural edge of the village, particularly towards the Parris Wood area. I have spoken with residents and delivered information letters to those closest to the site so that they are aware of the proposal and how to comment.

Planning pressures are likely to remain ongoing whilst the Council does not have a confirmed five-year housing land supply and until the new Local Plan is adopted. I will continue to ensure that local infrastructure and environmental concerns are clearly represented as these applications progress.

Roadworks along the A49 have understandably caused disruption. The works involve coordination between National Highways and Cadent Gas so that essential gas main replacement can take place ahead of resurfacing. National Highways have also requested a pause in the Pulley Lane application to allow further traffic modelling to be carried out.

Since the A49 works began, particularly during daytime traffic management and evening closures, we have seen a noticeable increase in diverted traffic through the village. Over the past two weeks I have been working with Shropshire Council Highways and other partners to try to introduce mitigation measures, including requesting steps to discourage rat-running via Lyth Hill and Little Lyth. There have been numerous reports of speeding, congestion and larger vehicles using unsuitable village roads. It has highlighted just how constrained our local road network becomes whenever there is disruption on the A49 and why infrastructure resilience is such an important consideration as further housing applications come forward.