

Shropshire Councillors Report – October 2025

Transport

- A new and improved bus timetable for Ludlow will begin at the end of October. This follows the poorly received timetable changes introduced under the previous administration.
- Thanks to partnership working between local members, the council, and the bus company, bus services will now better reflect community needs.
- A large number of bus contracts will be up for renewal in 2025, giving further opportunities to ensure services are reliable and community focused.
- This demonstrates the community-first approach of the new administration.

Planning and Street Scene

- Officers are preparing a guidance note for parish councils via SALC. This will explain:
 - How best to comment on planning applications.
 - The importance of using “material considerations” to strengthen observations.
 - Key timeframes for responses.
- The guidance is expected to be circulated in the coming weeks.
- A briefing on Street Scene delegation (covering how responsibilities could be managed locally) will take place by the end of October.

Strategic and Government Engagement

- A letter has been sent to the new Minister for Roads regarding the North West Relief Road (NWRR), offering details of an alternative way forward.
- This week, there will be a plan for the Corporate Peer Challenge (CPC) produced, along with a letter to MHCLG requesting Exceptional Financial Support (EFS) from central government.

Highways

- Since May, the new administration has repaired over 10,000 potholes.
- This represents a 55% increase in pothole repairs compared to May–September of the previous year.

Health and Social Care

- The All-Age Autism Strategy (2025–2030) is now out for consultation until 2nd November 2025.
 - The draft strategy aims to embed a cultural shift across Shropshire’s services, taking an all-age approach and creating more autism-accessible services.
 - The consultation survey can be accessed online: [Draft All-age Autism Strategy consultation | Get Involved - Shropshire Council Consultation Portal](#).
- A series of visits have taken place to understand Shropshire’s Drug & Alcohol Services and wider community health provision:
 - With You Shropshire Service (supporting over 1,100 clients, including work with The Tannery Homeless Accommodation).

- Sunflower House Community & Neighbourhood Health Hub, providing a wide range of community-based health services.
- Louise House (SC Building), currently used by the NHS, Autism Charity A4U, and other service providers.

Environment – Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS)

- The draft Local Nature Recovery Strategy is out for consultation until 15th October 2025.
- Key responsibilities for town and parish councils (per Government guidance, May 2023):
 1. Consider biodiversity within their parish.
 2. Agree local policies and objectives to support biodiversity.
 3. Deliver these objectives through community action.
- Councils are encouraged to work with local wildlife groups, SALC, and other partners to develop local nature recovery plans.
- Examples of parish-led biodiversity action include:
 - Tree and hedgerow planting.
 - Creation of ponds and wildflower meadows.
 - Watercourse protection.
 - Redesigning parks and recreational spaces with biodiversity in mind.
- A case study of Oswestry Town Council highlights successful approaches to making communities more nature rich.

Casework Issues

In response to a number of emails from residents, I raised concerns about speeding and road safety with the Cabinet member for Transport & Economic Growth at Shropshire Full Council Meeting on 25th September. I asked whether Shropshire Council would consider introducing lower speed limits and additional road safety measures.

Cllr Rob Wilson responded that *“Our manifesto at the council elections said that we would “Introduce 20mph speed limits where there is the support of the parish council and local councillor”. This follows the successful approach taken by the Liberal Democrat/Green coalition at Oxfordshire County Council over the last four years. The evidence there and elsewhere shows that there is a reduction not only in collisions and the number of people killed and seriously injured, but savings on car insurance premiums too.*

We have held initial discussions with Council officers about reviewing Shropshire Council’s policy on the use of 20mph speed limits. The hope is that this will make the process for implementation simpler and more cost effective. This work is complicated by the previous administration’s policy to only introduce these safer limits outside of schools, which, whilst noble-sounding, is not evidence-based in making journeys safer.

We will share more details about how this review will impact existing proposals for 20mph schemes as soon as possible.”

As soon as we have clearer proposals and concrete plans from this review, I will be following up with the necessary actions. I will continue to push for lower speed limits and other safety measures to address the issues in The Meres effectively.

- I have been liaising with the Police to request speed checks across the area. The Police are keen to hear from residents about their concerns and will be at The Millenium Hall on 31st October 10.00 – 11.00.

Road closures

None planned