

Shropshire Councillors Report – November 2025

Planning Applications

Officers have prepared & distributed a briefing note for parish councils via SALC. This explains:

- How best to comment on planning applications.
- The importance of using “material considerations” to strengthen observations.
- Key timeframes for responses.

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.

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/>

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.

Upcoming Cabinet Reports

Two forthcoming education reports:

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

Both represent positive investment in Shropshire's education provision.

Veolia and Shropshire Council EnviroGrant

Veolia's EnviroGrant, run in partnership with Shropshire Council, is now open for the fourth year running. The EnviroGrant is open until 30 November for applications from not-for-profit community groups looking to benefit their local communities and environments in the county of Shropshire.

Applicants can receive up to £1,000 in funding for projects that improve or protect the environment through practical action or education. Funding will be awarded to successful applicants in February 2026.

For more information and to apply to the EnviroGrant, visit:

shropshire.veolia.co.uk/community/veolias-envirogrant-shropshire

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.

Casework Issues

I have been contacted by a resident with concerns about the way CIL is distributed in Shropshire, and I have therefore joined the Task and Finish group organised by the Transformation and Improvement Overview and Scrutiny Committee, to review CIL fund.

A resident has been in touch with concerns about road safety in Cockshutt & I continue to liaise with the Police and Shropshire Council over speed checks in Cockshutt and am waiting for the publication of the policy on introducing lower speed limits to pursue this further.

Road closures affecting Cockshutt residents:

Road Closure: A528 and B5476 Harmer Hill

Start Date: 6th December 2025

End Date: 6th December 2025

Purpose: Multevo carriageway repairs

Works Promoter: Shropshire Council

Works Promoter Ref: UJ20877312675

Enforcement pattern for A528 and B5476 Harmer Hill:

Saturday 09:30 - 16:00

Road Closure: A528, through Burlton, Burlton

Start Date: 1st March 2026

End Date: 1st March 2026

Purpose: Road Closure - Repair defective manhole frame and cover

Works Promoter: Severn Trent Water

Works Promoter Ref: LB7012204-000013701768B-01

Enforcement pattern for A528, through Burlton:

9.30 - 15.30hrs

Road Closure: Unnamed Road, English Frankton

Start Date: 4th February 2026

End Date: 4th February 2026

Purpose: Road Closure - Pole Test and Tree Cutting

Works Promoter: Openreach

Works Promoter Ref: BC008PLT3159621430032025-01

Enforcement pattern for Unnamed Road, English Frankton:

9.30 - 15.30hrs