

Shropshire Councillor Report June 2025

Planning

The review of the new Local Plan is progressing, with the “call for sites” on 10th July. This ends on 2nd October 2025. Site assessments will begin in early 2026. The First Draft will go out for consultation in Autumn 2026. It should be noted that under the updated National Planning Policy Framework, sites previously assessed or allocated will not automatically carry over. Additionally, new Supplementary Planning Documents (SPDs) are expected to be published for review shortly, which will provide policy cover while there is no Local Plan.

Health

A countywide campaign has been launched to address falling vaccination rates, which have declined significantly since the Covid-19 pandemic. This drop poses serious public health risks, and residents are encouraged to ensure they and their families are up to date with all routine vaccinations.

On a positive note, the issue of delayed hospital discharges has seen significant improvement compared to last year. Continued efforts are underway to reduce delays further, ensuring patients can return home or move into appropriate care in a timely manner.

Social Housing

The county’s social housing register, Homepoint, is undergoing an urgent review. Currently operating as a two-tier system, the waiting list has grown to around 7,000 households. There are growing concerns that local housing needs in rural communities are not being adequately met.

However, there is some good news: 13 new social rented homes are under construction in Chirbury, a project made possible through the partnership of Powis Castle Estate, Shropshire Rural Housing, Shropshire Council and Council Leader Heather Kidd. This development, six years in the making, is a vital step in supporting rural community sustainability. Nonetheless, it is clear that more such projects are needed — and delivered more quickly — to meet local demand.

Highways

Shropshire Council has added a third in-house pothole team to accelerate repairs and improve road maintenance across the county. This expansion aims to tackle the growing backlog of potholes and address widespread public dissatisfaction with road conditions. Residents should begin to see faster response times and better-maintained roads as a result.

Transport

Improvements have been made to the Park and Ride services in Shrewsbury, with all three sites — Harlescott, Meole Brace, and Oxon — now offering buses every 12 minutes during peak times. These upgrades are funded through Shropshire Council's share of the government's 2025–26 improvement funding.

Working with Town and Parish Councils

Shropshire Council's new Administration is prioritising improved relations with Town and Parish Councils. We appreciate the many responses to the Transformation Scrutiny Chair's Call for Information and look forward to collaborative policy development this Autumn for bespoke changes by the January 2027 budget.

We've also seen strong interest in 'pilot' schemes for service delivery changes by January 2026, especially in Street Scene and Environmental Maintenance. Rapid progress is underway to put these pilots into practice.

Our work focuses on three main areas:

1. Strengthening existing relationships (e.g., Highways, Planning, CIL, S106).
2. Developing partnerships for joint projects and services, such as youth services.
3. Delegating services—alongside funding—to local councils ready to take full responsibility, particularly in Street Scene.

With limited resources, it is vital we shift towards genuine partnership and local empowerment.

Social Care- Fostering

Shropshire Council is seeking to expand its fostering service and actively recruiting for more foster carers. Fostering provides either a long- or short-term home for children and young people in the care of the local authority. Providing safe, stable and loving homes for children and young people is a high priority for Shropshire Council and the children they look after. Foster carers are well supported by Shropshire Council with training provided as well as social events and peer support.

There is lots of information on this link [Foster Care In Shropshire | Shropshire Fostering | Home](#) and a local charity **Shropshire Foster Carers Association** who do some great work organising trips and events for foster families. They are actively fundraising so if you can help to spread the word with this link [Building Bonds Through Shared Journeys](#) that would be wonderful.

Bayston Hill- Local Report

Oakmeadow School

On the 18th of June, I was pleased to attend Oakmeadow School to support their trial of the Walking Bus and Breakfast Club initiative, part of the DfE's pilot scheme. It was encouraging to see the strong engagement from both staff and students. Additionally, Oakmeadow has benefited from Active England funding, allocated through Shropshire Council, which will support further health and activity-focused initiatives at the school.

A49 Meeting – 7th July 2025

A comprehensive and productive meeting took place on the 7th of July with representatives from West Mercia's Road Safety Team and Joe Walmsley. The discussion focused on road safety concerns along the A49 corridor. Joe, along with the local police, will continue to provide updates on speed enforcement measures and any further traffic-calming strategies. To build on this, I have arranged a walk along the A49 with David Vasmer, Shropshire Council's portfolio holder for Highways. During this walk, we will assess pathway and footpath conditions and consult with residents near the Three Fishes area about the lack of accessible entry to their gardens.

White Gates – Anti-social Behaviour

I recently raised urgent concerns with Housing Enforcement regarding ongoing antisocial behaviour at the White Gates site. This was particularly troubling due to the safety risks posed to young people accessing the area and the disruption caused to neighbouring properties. In response, both the local SNT from West Mercia and enforcement officers have visited the site multiple times and engaged directly with the landowner. A Community Protection Warning has been issued. Regular monitoring by the enforcement team and police will ensure that the agreed measures are implemented and maintained.

Highways and Maintenance Updates

I remain in regular contact with the Highways department regarding several local issues. One key concern has been the roundabout at the top of Pulley Lane and Gorse Road, where markings have become completely obscured. I have been assured that repainting is scheduled to take place imminently, along with additional road markings throughout the village. I will share the confirmed dates once they are available.

Footpaths and Green Maintenance

I have also contacted the PRow (Public Rights of Way) team regarding footpath maintenance, particularly the pathway between Gorse Lane and Yewtree Drive. I am hopeful this will be included in their maintenance schedule. Separately, Shrewsbury Town Council recently undertook additional maintenance work along Pulley Lane, cutting back overgrown foliage and grass. This was not part of their standard remit. I have now received confirmation that this stretch will be included in the council's regular annual maintenance programme going forward.

Cllr Teri Trickett

Bayston Hill