Bayston Hill Parish Council

Shropshire Councillor Report

October 2026

Local Update

Public Transport

I'm delighted to report that the Meole Brace Park & Ride will continue beyond the 1st November. Details of the new timetable will be widely advertised and I'm currently pushing for greater usage and improved signage.

I'll be holding a Dial-a-Ride drop-in at the library on Thursday 22nd October from 10.30am–12.30pm, alongside Chief Officer Neil Langford. We want to get the message out about just how valuable this door-to-door service can be.

I also know that the number 27 bus continues to be very unreliable and this causes real concern as it is a lifeline for so many people getting to college, work, appointments and elsewhere. I'll shortly be sending out a survey asking villagers a number of questions about the service so that we can gather people's experiences and views.

Young Councillors

I recently visited Oakmeadow CE Primary School at the start of the new school year to meet their new School Council. Earlier this year the pupils visited the Guildhall and hopefully we can facilitate this again for the new young councillors.

It really is great to see young people so engaged and excited about helping their fellow pupils and making a difference within their school.

Safer Neighbourhood Team

I continue to meet regularly with our Safer Neighbourhood Team. One of their main messages to residents, particularly given the recent antisocial behaviour we have experienced in the village, is the importance of reporting incidents directly to the police.

If you witness antisocial behaviour or a crime happening at the time that requires an immediate police response, someone is in danger or violence is taking place or being threatened, call 999. For non-emergencies, incidents can be reported by calling 101 or online.

The police cannot act on incidents they are unaware of and there have been occasions recently when information has reached them secondhand rather than being reported directly. Reporting an incident directly and as soon as possible gives the police the information they need to respond appropriately.

The Three Fishes

It was lovely to be invited to the pre-opening of the Three Fishes. If you have been to see it, I'm sure you will agree that the work has been done incredibly well.

I'm particularly delighted that the residents who previously parked on the site have now been provided with their own designated parking spaces, complete with lockable bollards to prevent anyone else using them. The area is now fully tarmacked and the residents are delighted with the result.

We worked really hard to secure this and a big thank you must go to Black Country Ales for listening to our concerns and making it happen.

Shropshire Council Update

Shropshire Wellbeing and Navigation Network (SWANN)

Residents can now refer themselves directly to the Shropshire Wellbeing and Navigation Network (SWANN), making it easier to access early and practical support before problems become more serious.

SWANN is available to adults aged 18 and over and brings together a range of services offering support with areas including wellbeing, independence, mental health, social isolation, daily living skills and support following a hospital stay. A family member or unpaid carer can also help someone to make a referral.

The service has been running since April and has already supported hundreds of people across Shropshire. Residents can find out more and make a self-referral through the Shropshire Council website.

Changes to Planning Applications

From 31st October, new Government rules will change the way planning applications are referred to planning committees across England.

One of the most significant changes is that an objection or a request from a ward councillor, town council or parish council will no longer automatically provide a route for an application to be considered by a planning committee. Instead, applications will need to meet a nationally prescribed gateway test.

Residents, councillors and parish councils will still be able to support, object to or comment on planning applications and material planning considerations such as highways, flooding, heritage, ecology, landscape, residential amenity and planning policy will continue to be considered.

Shropshire Council already operates an agenda-setting process to determine which applications should go before committee and this will be developed into the new formal gateway process.

New Local Plan

Shropshire Council has formally begun the process of preparing its new Local Plan and has now passed through ‘Gateway 1’ under the Government’s new Local Plan arrangements.

This marks the beginning of a 30-month plan preparation process. The recent scoping consultation received more than 800 responses from residents and organisations across Shropshire. These are now being assessed and will help inform the next stages of the plan.

The Local Plan will play an important role in determining how Shropshire grows and develops over the coming years and there will be further opportunities for communities to engage as the work progresses.

Children Achieving and Thriving in Education

Shropshire Council has endorsed a new three-year Children Achieving and Thriving in Education Strategy, which is being rolled out from September 2026.

The strategy focuses on educational achievement, safeguarding, attendance, behaviour, inclusion and provision for children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND).

It will sit alongside the council's wider children's transformation programme, with an increased emphasis on prevention and collaboration between services. This includes improving the number of children starting school having reached their developmental milestones and supporting children and young people with SEND in mainstream education wherever possible.